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BIRTHS.

On 21st November, at Socchow, the wife of A. C. BOWEN, of a daughter.
On 2nd December, at Shanghai, the wife of F. A. DE ST. CROIX, of a son.
On the 5th December, at No. 6 East Avenue, Kowloon, the wife of F. F. ECA DA SILVA, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On 5th December, at the Wesleyan Chapel, by the Rev. C. Bone, WILLIAM HENRY, eldest son of GEORGE DONALD, Esq., of Sydney (N.S.W.), to MARY, younger daughter of ROBERT WALL, of Sydney. No cards.

DEATHS.

On 23rd November, at Tientsin, JULIA CATHERINE REID, of Tientsin and Shanghai, aged 59 years.
On 30th November, at Shanghai, HANS SOPHUS BOJESSEN, second son of the late CARL CHRISTIAN BOJESSEN, D.M., aged 22 years.
On 3rd December, at Shanghai, ESTANISLANTONIO BOTELEHO, aged 18 years.
On 5th December at 11 p.m., at Kowloon Docks, LACHLAN M. KERR, Superintendent Shipwright, many years in the employment of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company; a native of Greenock, Scotland, aged 49 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAIL.

The German Mail of November 7th arrived, per the ss. *Prinz Eitel Friedrich*, on Tuesday the 5th instant; and the French Mail of November 10th is due to arrive, per the *Ernest Simons*, some time to-morrow.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Martial law has been abolished at Tokyo.
A telegram to the *N.C. Daily News* on Nov. 28 said that plague was steadily spreading at Kobe.
It is reported that there has been a "hitch" in the Sino Japanese negotiations; but not a serious one. They end in a few days.

A suggestion is made that shipping companies should provide for passengers waiting rooms on hulks at riverine ports.

The embargo preventing copper coins from circulating in any province other than that in which they are minted has been removed.

On Dec 4th a return notifies that 300 cases of plague have occurred to date; the death roll numbers 282. There was also one fatal case of small-pox.

Mr. Pokotilow, Russian Minister, has asked for mining rights in Mongolia, but the Waiwupu declines to consider the matter till the negotiations with Japan are concluded.

Beginning on December 3rd additional trains were put on the Shanghai-Nanking run. There are now four trains each way every day to cope with the increasing traffic.

Singapore is scandalised because an engineer, for eight or ten months' work in connection with the Tapjong Pagar Dock expropriation, demanded \$100,000 and got \$50,000.

The Japanese have asked the right to transform Port Arthur into a more complete naval base by the construction of new and larger docks, but the Chinese are unwilling to grant the privilege.

Marquis Ito is reported to have denied, for publication, the reports that Corea has become a Japanese possession. We can suppose only that he was referring to the tenth point of the law, *vide* adage.

Messrs. Benjamin, Kelly and Potts inform us that they are in receipt of a private telegram advising that the crushing of the Raub Australian Gold Mine for the past four weeks realized 690 ounces smelted gold from 5,086 tons of stone.

The *Nanfupao* says that Viceroy Chang Chih-tung has been severely denounced by a Censor for borrowing British capital for his railway redemption scheme, and has received secret instructions from the Throne to adopt measures to prevent complications in the future.

The attention of the Waiwupu has been drawn to the fact that in many lawsuits in Kiangsu, Anhui, and other provinces, foreigners have become interested; one Shanghai firm openly advertising its ability to collect debts. The matter is being brought before the Consul concerned.

A very interesting ceremony took place at the new Railway Station at Nanking on Nov. 25 when the gentry of Nanking presented the Engineering Staff of the Shanghai-Nanking railway, (viz.: Mr. A. H. Collins, Engineer-in-Chief, Mr. G. W. Eves, Executive Engineer, Mr. J. Tuxford, Assistant Engineer, and Mr. Shen Shon-bang, Mr. Tuxford's interpreter) with eight complimentary tablets, in graceful recognition of the harmony and good feeling that had existed between the railway staff and gentry.

The completion of the electric tramway in Tientsin is threatened with a serious interruption. The Japanese municipal authorities have refused permission to the promoters to lay their tracks along the Japanese bund fronting on the Peiho river—a very important section of the proposed line.

By the departure of Mr. John Hays, who has for a number of years been connected with Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, solicitors, Hongkong loses a sportsman and an active member of its A.D.C. Mr. Hays left on Dec. 6 for Shanghai, where he intends following the practice of his profession.

News of the scarcity of salt in Japan having, reached Peking, the Chinese Government, according to a Peking telegram to the *Asahi*, has offered to present the Japanese Government with 20,000,000 kin of salt. The Japanese Minister has been notified that the gift is one of friendship, and that no payment would be received.

Mr. L. M. Kerr, superintendent shipwright at the Kowloon Docks, died at his quarters in the Dockyard on December 5 at the early age of 49 years. Mr. Kerr, who is a native of Greenock, Scotland, has been connected with the Docks for over 25 years. He leaves a widow and one child, with whom much sympathy is felt in their sad bereavement.

Viceroy Chou Fu's newly opened Girls' School at Nanking is supported by subscription of the leading Taotais of Nanking, and the Viceroy has promised an annual subscription of Taels 2,000. Six lady teachers, three for English and three for Chinese, have been engaged; and there are at present thirty boarders and thirty day scholars, mostly from official families.

With regard to the German Commercial Treaty it is stated that the German Government has now added to its demands: (1) the abolition of likin and the right of German subjects to trade in the interior, protection to be afforded them by China; (2) the right of navigation by German steamers on the Yangtze between Ichang and Chungking; and (3) the amendment of the Mining Regulations.

A motor river boat, designed for the purpose of navigating the shallow waters of South China, was on Nov. 27 launched from the shipbuilding yard of Messrs Bailey and Co., Kowloon, where it was built to the order of Mr. J. W. Kew. Fitted with a 45 I. H. P. Gardiner Kerosene Motor, the launch will carry 250 passengers with a draught of only two feet. She covered the measured mile at a speed of 9½ miles per hour. The launch took place in the presence of a number of visitors, Miss Hill christening the vessel *Tien Kong* as it left the slipway.

The thirteenth annual report of accounts of the Nippon Marine Transport and Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., Osaka, has just been published. It shows that the net premia after deducting returns and re-insurances amount to ¥798,561, and the working account shows a balance at credit of ¥172,090, which sum the directors recommend be appropriated as follows:—Reserve Fund, ¥30,000; bonus to staff, ¥14,900; dividend of 10 per cent per annum to shareholders, ¥75,000; and balance carried forward, ¥52,190. With the addition stated, the Reserve Fund now amounts to ¥530,000.

JAPAN AND MANCHURIA.

(Daily Press 2nd December.)

In giving some days ago the alleged headings of the Japanese proposal to China regarding Manchuria, we were careful to mention that these details were matters of report only; and while of undoubted interest, we did not regard them as a trustworthy statement of facts. It appears that they have helped to strengthen the fears of those who do not trust Japan's good faith; and it may therefore be just as well to remind readers that it is not a Japanese habit to take newspapers into confidence while important negotiations are proceeding. All present reports, therefore, must be regarded as coming from Chinese sources; and while it has sometimes been the case that Peking has permitted leakages, we do not think that anything so far published concerning the negotiations can be more than more-or-less clever guesswork—in some cases, perhaps inspired guesswork. There can be no question of the integrity of China. Japan's status in Corea is vastly different to what it is in Manchuria; and the same treaty which confirmed the fate of Corea guarantees the integrity of China. If there are any doubts as to the nature of the proceedings at Peking, they should be at once dispelled by the attitude of China. BARON KOMURA has been received, not as a potential suzerain or a designing diplomat, but as a deliverer whom China is called upon to reward. Negotiations are necessary on account of the characteristically Chinese cannyness by which natural gratitude is tempered with the business instinct to make a bargain. China lost some valuable property which Japan found and is restoring. China recognises that a reward must be paid, but does not want to give more than Japan is likely to be satisfied with. The position is more delicate even than that, for China's gratitude happens to be of the kind once defined as a lively sense of favours still to come. With her helpful neighbour on good terms, China cannot but feel insured against any future loss of the mislaid property. Examining in detail, however, the proposals which are said to have been made by Baron KOMURA, it is still difficult to imagine why or where the "friends" of China can see any symptom of dismemberment. Russia's lease of Liaotung naturally falls to Japan, without altering the position of, so to speak, the freeholder. The Chinese Eastern Railway was a prize of war, and while the arrangements for the new partnership naturally need to be negotiated, there is nothing in it which could not have been foreseen after the Treaty of Portsmouth. The time to be allowed for evacuating Manchuria is scarcely a new question at Peking, and Japan's patent desire to expedite it is in pleasing contrast with the much discussed and often promised evacuation that should have taken place some months before the war. Inspired rumours have put the period at six months, which we declared at the time of their appearance to be inadequate; and if Japan agrees to quit in eighteen months it will be bad taste and bad politics for China to haggle over a month or two. Besides, Russia has not been cleared out of Northern Manchuria yet. The rest of the alleged proposals, with only one exception, are either altogether laudable, as the opening of Manchuria, or perfectly natural, as the few "cushaws" asked for services rendered, and which could be and have been demanded by other parties. The exception is the supposed stipulation that

Japan is to be first consulted in the granting of concessions to foreigners; and with regard to this we had better wait until we hear more about it, on better authority than the statement has at present. It will be admitted off-hand that China's weakpoint is her system of granting concessions; and that it is possible much mischief might be avoided if she had to consult somebody. Foreign concessions are regarded by China as alcoholic drinks are by a teetotaler. Total abstinence is his principle, and when he is prevailed upon to break it, he either overdoes it, or gets the bad kind, owing to his inexperienced palate. With regard to the Yellow Peril people who see in the very friendliness of these negotiations a threat of Japanese preponderance in China, it only remains to be said that they do not know China, if they imagine that she is throwing herself into the arms of Japan with the self-surrender of a willing bride. The kind of spoon that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said should be used when supping with a certain Personage is the kind required in dealing with Peking; and this Japan well knows. The closest union likely to occur between Japan and China is at most a *mariage de convenance*.

THE FAR EAST.

(Daily Press, 4th December.)

The events of the past two years have entirely altered the bearing of the Far Eastern question. It is now only "far" as regards its venue not as respects its effects. The change that has taken place has, like all great political changes, been gradual; but it has been brought suddenly into prominence by recent occurrences. That this fact has been recognised at home in high quarters is evidenced in a variety of ways, not the least striking among them being the idea upon which the late military manœuvres were founded, the assumption, namely that Britain and Japan were fighting against a European coalition and that the latter had landed troops at Birkenhead and Holbeach, which General French with three Army Corps at his disposal was engaged in repelling. The British are not generally supposed to be a fanciful and over-imaginative people, and that such an idea should have been conceived, if only as a mere basis of a supposed military position, is certainly somewhat striking, and it shows in an unmistakable manner the direction in which public feeling is running. Read between the lines, it is a significant declaration that England may one day have to look to Japan to sustain her position as a dominant Power in the world. Making every allowance for imaginativeness, and for a desire to choose a subject which would arouse some enthusiasm, there is something which cannot be overlooked in the particular position which was assumed. It may be taken that the contingency supposed is at least not considered outside the bounds of possibility. The drift of affairs has been such that it has become evident that Great Britain and Japan must act together in order to maintain their respective interests in Asia; and it is not an altogether improbable corollary from this that such a combination between them might have the effect of bringing about a European coalition by which the interests and position of both might be menaced. The fact that the manœuvres took place before the renewal of the Treaty between Britain and Japan adds to the significance of the curious programme suggested. It would seem that there must have been a somewhat definite knowledge of the direction in which affairs were going before that time; and it is notice-

able that some papers on the continent, after the renewal of the Treaty was announced, actually argued that a European coalition might be a proper course to counteract the effects of the agreement which had been come to. Such a coalition is, of course, one of those things more easily spoken of than accomplished; and perhaps there is as little reason to fear its being brought about, as there was to fear an Asiatic combination, which was a subject of speculation when the "Yellow Peril" was a favourite theme. Underneath what we may believe, or at least hope, is an exaggerated view of the matter, there lies a truth that it may be well not to overlook, namely that the Far East is no longer separated from Europe and the rest of the world as it was in former days. More intimate international relations and the improvements in the means of intercommunication have brought East and West so closely together that no great question can arise in the one which does not affect the other; and the rise of Japan as an independent Great Power (for so she must be now regarded) in these parts has altogether altered the nature of the Far Eastern question as familiar to politicians in former days. The Far East can no longer be regarded as a convenient sphere for venturesome nations, who are willing to incur the risk of comparatively small complications. The whole world is now interested in any large question which arises in these parts; and to such an extent that the idea of a combination in Europe being brought about by them is not by any means so fanciful as it would have appeared some years ago. The time is past when any one nation can, without the concurrence of the others, pursue any scheme of territorial conquest in the East. This view of the subject is not altogether acceptable to some nations who have entertained contrary hopes, and it is one which may not easily be abandoned. At the present time it, no doubt, presses with more force than will be the case in a few years, partly because it is new and partly because the developments which the altered state of affairs will bring about are not as yet taken into full account. But, as time goes on, it will be found that all that can reasonably be obtained of advantage from the Far East, that is fair and equal facilities for commercial intercourse, can be acquired in a simpler and safer manner than by conquest, and that the true policy of each foreign nation is to further such trading facilities in common with the other foreign nations and in conformity with the legitimate rights and interests of China and Japan themselves.

A SINOLOGUE'S WILL.

(Daily Press, 5th December.)

It appears to us for several reasons that the case of the late Dr. EDKINS' will, about which an abstract appears on the opposite page, is as important as it is interesting. Some readers will indulge in speculative side issues on the capacity of missionaries for accumulating worldly wealth; the unworldly principle which permits a comparatively wealthy society to take away what common human nature regards as the widow's mite; and so on. Into these fields we do not propose to wander. Others will wonder what the JUDGE meant by "the absence of the testimonium clause," for many have wills made or to make; and the recently published last will and testament of the late Lord INVERCLYDE, which simply said "I leave everything I possess of every description to my wife, the Right Hon. Mary Baroness INVERCLYDE, and I appoint her my executrix.—(Signed) INVERCLYDE,"

seemed (by its legal success) to simplify an intricate, troublesome, and expensive business so much. But that again is a matter for testators, with or without their legal advisers, and we must leave them to wrestle with it alone. It is the extraordinary cross-examination, the object of which Sir HAVILLAND DE SAUSMAREZ, the Judge, was "absolutely at a loss to understand." If Mr. H. P. WILKINSON, the cross-examining counsel, be correct in meaning what he seemed to mean, there are very few of us who can be trusted to act with complete sanity. He suggested that strong views about the opium traffic were symptomatic of mental unfitness to testify; that speculations as to the fate of the lost tribe of ISRAEL are mentally unsound; that a hypothesis tracing Chinese derivations for words in other languages was impossible to a *mens sana*. He did not appear to think that, given a sinologue "fonder of his books than of his wife," the explanation might rest with the lady, although the humorous point that a book can be made to shut up must have occurred to some married men in court. Another question asked suggested that the late Dr. EDKINS shares St. PAUL's opinion of the proper place of women and wives in social life; and this, as well as Mr. WILKINSON's triumph when he elicited an admission that Dr. EDKINS was a man without guile, entailed implications that must have sounded shocking to the missionary world. The suggestion that Dr. EDKINS refused to believe in the existence of evil was indignantly denied, yet there are sane men of science who cannot perceive evil that is evil *per se*. In another part of this paper there appears an extract in which Sir F. TREVES' philosophy of disease appears in order to startle the orthodox and stimulate more enquiring minds. We will refrain from odorous comparisons of the respective sanity of the famous doctor and the Shanghai counsel. Mr. WILKINSON has acted as a judge at Bangkok, and one shudders to think he may one day adjudicate again, if he retains the idea that men who believe or profess things that his own intelligence rejects are necessarily *non compos mentis*. A missionary witness said that Dr. EDKINS did not believe in the verbal inspiration of the Bible. There are a great many who do; but we agree with the CHIEF JUSTICE of Shanghai that even so they may "have a reasonable idea of what they are doing." On the whole, after reviewing the cross-examination, we should not have been surprised if the JUDGE's comments had been stronger. When the late St. GEORGE MIVART, the Roman Catholic who wrote a learned but heretical "Epistemology," was denied a Catholic burial, his son grievously offended his late father's admirers by appealing to the ecclesiastical authorities and declaring that his father was insane and so not responsible for his heresy. We can make allowances in that case, for a combination of filial piety and fervent faith prompted the aspersion on as sane a brain as ever worked. In the case of the Shanghai counsel, as we sympathise with the lady whose means of maintenance are going to swell the coffers of a missionary society, we might have smiled indulgently at barefaced legal subterfuges to right a wrong. The attempt was, however, clumsy and offensive; and was further marred by the crowning insult of claiming friendship with the deceased. That was surely unnecessary. Or is it that the learned counsel hopes to climb on stepping stones of his dead friend to higher things?

THE MANCHURIA NEGOTIATIONS.

(Daily Press, 6th December).

Public opinion, as we have already pointed out, is not quite in a position yet to assess at their proper value the negotiations which for the last month have been going on at Peking between Baron KOMURA, on behalf of the Japanese Government, and the Wai-wupu, regarding the restoration to China of the Manchurian territory. Some have little doubt that, dazzled by the brilliancy of the prospect held out by the new alliance with Japan, and indisposed to put a check on the latter's rising ambition, the British Government has been viewing, with a non-chalance almost amounting to apathy, Japan's new claims, which have lately seemed to imply conditions not only derogatory to China's Imperial rights but directly opposed to our own commercial interests in Manchuria; and which, it is feared, may eventually be made the foundation of still more injurious demands in the near future. Very naturally, in concluding his treaty with Count DE WITTE, Baron KOMURA desired to exclude as far as possible external conditions which would have complicated its execution. The main point was the retirement of Russia from Manchuria, and in fulfilment of this the request of China to be made a third party in the agreement was consistently refused; but in merely transferring to Japan such rights as she had acquired, this by no means implied a ratification by China of Russia's claims any further than they could be found to have legal foundations, and to be consistent with other obligations entered into by China with outside Powers. Fortified by his diplomatic success in having brought to a satisfactory conclusion his difficult task of negotiating the treaty of Portsmouth, Baron KOMURA is supposed to be trying to carry the diplomatic struggle still further, with the apparent object of negotiating an understanding, which may at some future period be held to imply a practical suzerainty over Manchuria, such as Japan has recently acquired over Korea. However satisfactory from an Imperial point of view may be our present alliance with Japan, and we think no one will now accuse us of deprecating its importance towards preserving the peace of the world, with our allies it has a somewhat different meaning. We have, for instance, been looking forward to the restoration of Manchuria to China as the inauguration of a period of enormously enhanced trade, and have been contemplating in advance the beautiful landscape of our own self-created "Open-Door." But is this quite the idea that presents itself to Baron KOMURA and the Japanese Government and people? We deprecated in our last reference hasty conclusions; but on further reflection feel inclined to point out that the Japanese view must inevitably differ with the British.

It is true, and we have no desire to gainsay Baron KOMURA's explicit statement, that he quite accepts the position that Japan stood pledged at the beginning of hostilities not to demand for herself any territorial concessions nor make any claims derogatory to China's Imperial sovereignty; and for himself he quite understands that Japan's claim for exclusive privileges would really defeat their own purpose. It is also the case that the councils of both sides in the negotiations have been well kept. Still it has been impossible from the very nature of the case to prevent the main points of issue from becoming known. That under the agreement with Russia Japan stands in the same position as that Power with regard to

the leased territory, and the arrangements for safe-guarding the Railway must be conceded; and that the Chinese are apparently making a grave error in seeking to call this in question may be at once taken for granted. In one respect, however, the Chinese stand in a much better position now than they did when dealing with Russia. The lease of the territory was, as recorded in black and white, for twenty-five years, of which seven have already expired. It is quite true that Russia for her part assumed that her term was as long as she liked to stay and, as she was the tenant in possession and mistress of the situation, she persistently refused to discuss the question. In consequence, when she assigned the lease, the twenty-five years remained as a limiting term to which Japan as the consignee is legally bound. It is to the credit of Japan that she has implicitly accepted these conditions, and it would indicate a better spirit on the part of China to equally implicitly accept on her side the conditions as to guards, etc. China, too, has the right of pre-emption, when she is in a financial position to do so; and Japan will probably, if approached in a friendly spirit, no doubt be prepared in her own interest to meet her in a reasonable manner. Having said so much as to the apparent unreasonableness of much of China's contention as to alleged interference with her sovereign rights, we may point out that after all, as being mainly matters of interpretation of arrangements deliberately entered into by China, the subject is pre-eminently one for submission to the Hague Tribunal, which will doubtless be prepared to enter on its consideration with all due regard for the national susceptibilities of both parties.

Beyond this matter of the settlement, in a mutually satisfactory manner, of the moot points remaining over with regard to the future control of the Manchurian Railway, there are others of an international description in which other nations, and markedly Great Britain, are deeply interested, and it is to these more especially that we desire to draw attention. Japan does not desire to withdraw her promise that with regard to the future of Manchuria she is prepared to uphold the policy of the "Open Door," but the phrase is of English invention, and is certainly not interpreted in Japan as it is in England. Nominally, the Japanese Tariff acknowledges the principle of equal advantages for all; practically, it is converted into an eminently protective implement. We may admire the ingenuity with which British traders have been quietly edged out of Japan, and flatter ourselves that as long as British goods are sold in Japan, and that in increasing quantities, the immediately distributing medium makes but little difference. This is doubtless true from a general standpoint, but it is hardly all the truth, and there is no doubt that the Home system which has been so far successful in expelling the trader, will eventually, it is hoped, be effective in rendering superfluous his trade. This, in spite of elaborate blue books intended to show the contrary, is certainly the mainspring of much that we see going on under our eyes, but to which we have been in the habit of closing our eyes. Although we are far from conceiving that our trade has suffered any serious detriment from these measures, the fact remains that so far as they go they have been successful, and that very considerable dissatisfaction does actually exist amongst British merchants in Japan at the undisguised preferences shown by the authorities all round. It may be uncon-

scious; it seldom or never occurs in such a manner as to afford occasion of official complaint; yet, it is acknowledged on all sides, it occurs. Now in some of the stipulations which have apparently been put forward in the present negotiations on behalf of Japan, we find similar proposed measures openly put forward, and preferences the order of the day. The curious thing about these proposed stipulations is that Japan hardly seems to recognise that under existing conditions most, if not all, would come under the most-favoured-nation clauses in existing treaties. Now Japan is not so unsophisticated in the methods of diplomacy as not to comprehend the full meaning and force of these clauses, and we can only suppose that by introducing them in her new convention she really has the design, so soon as she has the opportunity, of throwing in her influence with China to have these favoured-nation clauses abrogated. That Japan should stipulate for the opening of mines, for the establishment of Consuls and Banks and for residence, is natural and proper, as also for railroad extensions; most recent treaties contain such clauses, and China has commenced to wake up to the fact that she herself is concerned in their beneficial effects. But apparently Japan has been going further, military attaches' offices, control of salt taxes, the appointment of commissioners of customs, the right of felling trees, and the demand to interfere in engagements with other nations exhibit a strange inexperience in international relations. Doubtless many, if not all, of these demands have been misrepresented by the Chinese organs, but we may as well admit that Japan's real expectations point to subsequent preferential treatment in Manchuria. Great Britain, in opening the door to the acceptance of Japan as one of the Great Powers, had certainly no intention of making her Arbiter of the East, yet this seems to be the position to which her not altogether unnatural ambition is driving her to aspire.

FOREIGN TROOPS IN CHINA.

(Daily Press 7th December.)

We have understood in the South that it was settled that foreign troops were to withdraw from China; but our Tientsin contemporary, the *P. & T. Times*, now tells us that the matter is "by no means so cut and dried as some would have us believe." It will probably depend, we are told, in very great measure on the results of the present negotiations in Peking, and the future relations of Japan and China. Our contemporary appears to anticipate an alliance, approved by Great Britain, "and probably on the understanding that Japan undertakes to keep China more or less in order." This, while not quite outrageous or far-fetched, would appear to be more of a hope than a conviction; and prompted by a nervousness at the prospect of the talked-of withdrawal. This nervousness appears to have been as widespread as it is natural, if we may judge from the way the question has been debated in the north. One gentleman, signing himself "Once Shot at Twice Shy," dreads the contingencies that are likely "when the strong, controlling hand of the EMPRESS-DOWAGER is withdrawn." He remembers that the whole course of recorded history shows that no subject is so pregnant with political trouble as a disputed succession to power. The intrigues of Palace factions often issue in civil war; and when this occurs, nothing is easier than for an astute politician to direct the public discontent against one single element of all the contributing

causes. The presence of foreigners in China will for years to come be the red-flag to Chinese malcontents; and to him, he says, it seems a sort of madness on the part of Statesmen and Ministers to ignore this phase of the question. Viceroy YUAN he accepts as a present safeguard, but, inconsistently with his reference to the "constraining" hand of the EMPRESS-DOWAGER, he points out that "one man's life, however, is surely not good enough as a sole preventive against so terrible a contingency as the repetition of 1900." He makes a better point when he assails the optimistic platitudes about showing confidence and trust in the Chinese. If it were only the better sort of Chinese to whom foreigners have to look, that might be all right, but, he ejaculates, "for Heaven's sake, as well as for our own safety, do not let us think that relations between the Chinese proletariat and the foreign residents of China are on all fours as those between two Western peoples. They are not." Our sympathy is with him, because we have no faith in the constraining hand of a fickle EMPRESS (who was privy to the attempted murders of 1900) nor in the power even of a few enlightened VICEROYS. Academically, we are prepared to go as far as anybody in recognising the rights of China in this matter; and do not suggest that her past sins should be punished indefinitely. But it is only five short years since events which shocked and disgusted the world took place; and the antipathy which inspired them is less transient than the impressions made on the outside world appear to be. Peking within the last few days receives a "memorial" asking the Government to encourage the training of Chinese railway engineers. Excellent! But does the memorialist give a reason? He does. It is in order that "it shall not be necessary to retain the services of foreigners." It is as if a convicted criminal should urge his fellow criminals to seek after righteousness, in order that police and judges may be abolished! Even Japanese influence and advice cannot prevent such outflares as the recent affair at Linchow. The fire still smoulders, and there is no real repentance. China feels remorse, if at all, only for the failure of her misguided efforts to be rid of the hated foreigner. There has been far too much foreign toadying of the DOWAGER-EMPRESS, in view of her record; and it will certainly be an action misunderstood if the Powers magnanimously withdraw the troops just now. If it is not actually settled, let us talk of it in five years' time. If magnanimity and a strange forgetfulness prevail, it is to be hoped that the next best thing will not be overlooked; that is, a practical revival of the volunteer movement. It will be needed.

CHINESE MONEY.

(Daily Press, 7th December.)

By Article II. of the MACKAY Treaty, China agreed to take the necessary steps to provide for a uniform national coinage which shall be legal tender in payment of all duties, taxes, and other obligations throughout the Empire. To this end Regulations have been drawn up by the Imperial Council of Finance; and these, a fortnight ago, received the sanction of the Throne. They provide for the issue of four silver coins whose denominations will be: 1 Ku-ping tael, 5 mace, 2 mace and 1 mace. They are to be coined in five mints, and when they are ready for issue the Foreign Ministers at Peking will be duly notified in order that they may issue

instructions to their nationals to use these coins; and at the same time the Viceroys and Governors throughout China will be ordered to issue similar instructions for the information of the Chinese people. As soon as returns have been received from the copper mints, additional regulations will be issued regarding the exchange of copper coins for the new silver coinage. It does not appear that a definite date will be fixed when the new silver coins and no other will become legal tender, for the authorities are permitted to receive or pay horse-shoe silver or sycee "if they cannot obtain the new coins." Bank notes of a corresponding value to the new silver coins are to be issued by the National Bank of China in Peking. This attempt to reform the chaotic currency systems of China is a sign of progress and reform which will be cordially welcome. Now that railway construction is going on in various parts of the Empire, enormously facilitating the communications with distant provinces, a uniform national coinage has become a desideratum which the great mass of Chinese people themselves can hardly fail to appreciate. At present the conditions of doing business vary in nearly every province; in some localities no money is employed excepting copper cash and chunks of silver (sycee) which have to be weighed out by scales which each dealer or traveller keeps for the purpose. The adoption of a uniform coinage for the whole of the Empire is certain to lead to a rapid development of trade and commerce with the interior. To the outside world it is somewhat disappointing that the efforts of Professor JENKS to induce China to adopt a monetary system based on a fixed gold value has not been entirely successful, but if only the Chinese provincial authorities are equal to the task of honestly carrying out the present scheme, a great step along the road to progress and reform will have been taken. Many of the leading statesmen of China are not, we believe, without their misgivings as to the success of the scheme, it being feared by them that so radical a change in their financial system may not be achieved by a government which has so little real power over its separate provinces. Concomitantly, therefore, great political and administrative reforms are needed, and he who runs may read that these things are fully recognised by the more far-seeing of China's statesmen and that these vital needs are at the present time engaging serious attention at Peking.

WARFARE.

(Daily Press, 8th December.)

Never, perhaps, was a story with more "point" told than that Eastern one of the three blind men who found an elephant. One, embracing a leg, said "I perceive that an elephant is like a tree." Another, who had found the trunk, said: "Nay, brother. It is more like a snake." The third, who had encountered the animal's flank, declared them both wrong: that it was like an overhanging rock. The argument continued until they parted, and even then each knew that he was right. Col. PICQUART, the well-known French military critic, and the German authors of a pamphlet he criticises, appear to be in a like state of mind. The German General Staff some time ago issued a pamphlet entitled *Kriegsbrauch in Landkriege* (War Usages in Land Fighting). Following its translation into French, C. I. PICQUART criticises it in the *Gazette de Lausanne*. The Hague Peace Conference appears to have prompted the German view, which regarded that conference as achieving

little beyond pious aspirations; and viewed with all the alarm of a practical soldier the extremes toward which "degenerate humanitarianism" seemed to be enticing the world. In this they were taking a perfectly correct view of the leg of the elephant; and the French reviewer, stationed at the trunk, is equally right, from his point of view, in regarding the German view as re-actionary and inhumane. But neither side sees the whole elephant; and it would almost appear that clear and complete views are impossible where enthusiasm and sympathy and sincerity actuate the beholder. In fact, aloofness, almost amounting to indifference, will be charged against the non-blind spectator. It is certain that he must be able to turn a callous eye on things that make humanity shudder and equally necessary that he be not so callous as to be unable to shudder. With regard to the Hague Conferences, we must first settle what they would be at. If their ideal is to make an end of war altogether, we will remember its horrors, admire their aim, and try not to be unduly pessimistic as to their ultimate success. If their object be the more practical one of mitigating the inevitable horrors of inevitable war, then we must not let sympathy or prejudice carry us away. Comic papers mention every winter the tender-hearted lady who, seeing a football match for the first time, asks why they don't give each side a ball, so that the players need not struggle so much. Everybody sees the point desired to be made; but not everybody stops to think that, within limits, the tender-hearted lady was right in principle. Rules are made to mitigate the roughness of that sport, but should those rules go too far in the direction of the lady critic's ideal, they would defeat their own object. The majority of footballers would go back to the primitive game, unhampered even by the restrictions to which they had before agreed. War is the game of instinct, satisfactory only so long as it satisfies instinct. Human disputes can never be finally settled by games of chess: one of the disputants will always find his thoughts turning irresistibly to the argument of CAIN. Recognising this, the world has managed to eliminate to a great extent unnecessary brutalities, and tried to reduce the horrors of war to its least unpleasant essentials. Col. PICQUART protests because the German idea seems to be that the end justifies the means. It may be that we have got too near to the elephant; but that is a principle which in warfare we fear we must admit. There was some outcry among humane people who were shocked by the killing (whether actual or alleged does not matter) of wounded men in the Sudan. Those wounded men lay quietly watching for chances to kill British soldiers, in many cases hurting those who were looking for them to play the good Samaritan. If this means could have achieved the end, that is, ensured victory for their side, it would not have been so shocking. The end of reducing unnecessary and unavailing suffering and slaughter was, however achieved by making sure that the savages were as dead as they pretended to be. Humanitarians err when they are unwilling to see that circumstances alter cases. Col. PICQUART's point that without extreme rules there would be danger from chiefs wanting in sang-froid or in scrupulousness seems weakened by the reflection that such men would follow their instinct in face of a thousand regulations. It is probable that if Japan had not felt obliged to play to the humane gallery, and had not been embarrassed by a multitude of conventions, she

would not have left Russia in the position of pretending that there was a doubt as to the ultimate outcome. Also, the war might not have lasted quite so long.

THE RELIGIONS OF CHINA.

(Daily Press, 9th December.)

Our reviewer to-day protests, with some reason, at an English clergyman's flippant and misleading reference to Taoism, the intellectual faith or philosophy of both China and Japan. The pseudo-Taoism of the masses deserves no doubt all the disrespectful things that may be said of it; but it is a far cry from the philosophic nobility of LAO-TSZ to the superstitious follies of the so-called Taoist priests who may to-day be found in China. Besides, if the undoubted beauty of the "divine road" is to be slighted because of a few ignorant and illiterate guides, what may not be advanced against other cults? Less than a week ago in Shanghai there was delivered a Thanksgiving oration by Mr. T. R. JERNIGAN, a learned man professing the Rev. E. J. HARDY's own religion, in the course of which oration the following remarkable utterance occurred: "But the Saxon has always feared God and loved liberty. In darkest hours he turns directly to the Cross for light, and whenever his rights have been interfered with he has known how to defend them." Note the reference to the source of that light which advocates something quite un-Taoistic, teaching its devotees, when robbed of a coat, to give the thief the cloak also; and then the pugnacious ring of the concluding sentence. It would seem that modern pseudo-Christians not only decline to surrender the cloak as directed, but also cling illogically to another—the cloak of a profession that does not fit their practice. The educated and intelligent Taoist is not handicapped with such demands for "humbug"; he has instead a guiding principle that fits everyday life. Taoism in its essential doctrine offers no such hard nuts to crack as the one illustrated in Mr. JERNIGAN's remark. We are told of the "durable influence upon the cultured Chinese mind" of "pure and unadulterated Taoism." "Throughout the ages, solemn quotations from the Taoist classic have ever been in the minds of statesmen at supreme moments." On page 5 of this issue there is an example in an interview extracted from an American paper. Mr. TAKAHIRA, the Japanese Minister at Washington, was being pressed to make a statement for publication, and we can imagine his inward chuckles at the neat way he managed to foil the interviewer. But he said something, the importance of which the interviewer probably did not realise. He said the Japanese would march on the path of progress, adopting whatever might be found to improve them. That was Taoism, or Shintoism, for there is little difference between the *shen-tao* of China and the *shin-to* of Japan. Out of it comes *bushido* and the now renaissant ideal of the "simple life." LAO-TSZ knew that the great majority of human trials and difficulties are self-created; artificial, not natural; needing artificial remedies. What is the boasted civilisation of the West but a huge aggregation of artificial remedies? One of the chief themes of LAO-TSZ is the vanity of petty human distinctions. Compare that with the prejudices of another cult which, according to a recent speech by the Bishop of Hongkong, are the chief obstacle to the desired independence of the native Christian Church in China. "The multiplicity of European

stations undoubtedly stands in the way," he says, of a Chinese episcopate. This obviously implies that the foreign clergy would object to work under a native bishop: racial prejudice being stronger than religious sympathy. It must not, by the way, be understood that LAO-TSZ has the impossible "all men equal" idea. He recognises that men must, in this imperfect world, consist of both leaders and led, must be, as Professor PARKER puts it, "hammers or anvils." It is the artificial distinctions he condemns, with a wisdom we would like to see percolating into another cult. Many of the intellectuals of to-day are Taoists without knowing it, so eminently sane and generally applicable is this cult which the Chinese are being pestered to exchange for another. Philosophically, the Taoist is on a safer ground than the Rev. E. J. HARDY, for he is advised: "To know that you cannot know much is best, but to imagine you know the unknowable is disastrous." Our reviewer seems to have been justified in advising Mr. HARDY to let the "religions of China" alone. It is our regret that we cannot at present persuade some of his fraternity to a like abstention.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Council was held at the Council Chamber on Dec. 7th. Present:—
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, MAJOR SIR MATTHEW NATHAN, K.C.M.G.
HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR-GENERAL VILLIERS HATTON, C.B. (Commanding the Troops).
Hon. Mr. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (Colonial Secretary).
Hon. SIR H. S. BERKELEY, K.C. (Attorney-General).
Hon. Mr. L. A. M. JOHNSTON (Colonial Treasurer).
Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).
Hon. Captain L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE, R.N. (Harbour Master).
Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).
Hon. Mr. R. SHEWAN.
Hon. SIR C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.
Hon. Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.
Hon. Mr. GERSHOM STEWART.
Hon. Mr. WEI YUK.
Hon. Mr. C. W. DICKSON.
Mr. A. G. M. FLETCHER (Clerk of Councils).
MINUTES.

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

WORKMEN'S TRAMS.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Arising out of the minutes of the last meeting perhaps Dr. Ho Kai has a report to make in the matter of the resolution on the subject of the trams which was before last meeting of Council.

The Hon. Dr. HO KAI—On workmen's cars? HIS EXCELLENCY—Have you anything to report?

The Hon. Dr. HO KAI—No sir. We have made inquiries and received a very large number of communications from workmen themselves and from others. There is a great deal of information in them and the matter will require some time for investigation. I should like to have the resolution adjourned until another meeting.

The Hon. WEI YUK concurred.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The resolution stands adjourned for consideration to another meeting.

PAPEERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report by the examiners of Queen's College.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes, Nos. 58 to 61, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.
HIS EXCELLENCY—Of the four Financial minutes which it is proposed to refer to the Finance Committee, two of them, Nos. 59 and No. 61, require further explanation

from myself. No. 60 includes a sum of \$1,600 in aid of the vote for annually recurrent expenditure on Public Works. The only considerable item included in that sum is one of \$6,500 for the maintenance of the Praya walls and piers. The reason why this extra expenditure is being incurred this year is that it is thought advantageous to renew the pier at Observation Place while the Praya reclamation plant, which will eventually be disposed of, is still available. The Financial minute also includes a sum of \$107,050 in aid of the vote for Extraordinary Public Works. The first of the seven items which this amount is to cover is one of \$7,600 for the Bacteriological Institute. This is due to money having been expended out of the same vote in 1904 that was not anticipated and accordingly a greater sum is required for the completion of the building in 1905. This was provided in the estimate, which is a re-vote. The additional \$15,000 put down against miscellaneous drainage works is required on account of these works being necessary in connection with the reclamation scheme at Tai Po, Tai Kok Tsai, Mongkong Tsui and Kowloon Point. The \$9,800 additional for miscellaneous work refers to a number of items, the principal one of which is the advisability of carrying out some works of improvement at the Central Police Station at the same time as the additional storey was added to that building. For forming and kerbing streets an additional sum of \$25,000 is required. This expenditure is being incurred in resuming a piece of land which comes in the way of the 100 foot road which is to go from Kowloon Point to Hok Un. The resumption is now carried out because of the exceptionally favourable opportunity. The \$5,000 additional for miscellaneous water works is being expended in increasing the supply available for water boats at Laichikok. The requirements of water boats are very much increased since the Government Supply was first established there, and the works of supplying them is a remunerative one. There is an item of \$40,000 in connection with the Tytam Tuk scheme on which better progress was made than anticipated. The remaining item, \$4,610 for typhoon damages, speaks for itself. Turning from the details to the general effect of the vote which I am asking you to give on the Public Works Department for this year, and dealing first with recurrent public works, you will remember that on annual expenditure the original estimate was \$380,500. The supplementary vote including the present one amounted to \$21,250. Against this there were savings amounting to \$17,150 so that the total excess for the whole vote for the year will be \$4,100, which is about 1 per cent. Turning to the public works extraordinary the original estimate was \$1,815,300. The supplementary votes including the one now submitted amounted to \$354,470. Against this there were savings to the amount of \$279,540, leaving an excess over the original estimate of \$74,930. That is practically \$75,000 which we spent this year on the railway. This statement is not quite so satisfactory from the financial point of view as the one I made on September 7th, exactly three months ago. Then I did not anticipate we should spend the whole amount of the vote for public works extraordinary. From the point of view of work done, it is on the other hand more satisfactory as we have made more progress than anticipated on the water supply works and the preliminary arrangements for the railway. The financial aspect has also its brighter side because we are now in hopes of obtaining from land sales during the year a sum more nearly approximating the original estimate of \$500,000 than the revised estimate I put before you on September 7th of \$400,000. The other vote requiring explanation is No. 61, \$16,891 in aid of the expenses of the Military and Volunteers. The bulk of this is a re-vote due to the rifles and equipment which were ordered last year not having been charged to the Colony until the commencement of the present year. There is also a small amount, under \$2,000, which has been required for the equipment of the Volunteer troop.

The motion was agreed to.

GENERAL LOAN AND INSCRIBED STOCK ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the General

Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance, 1893, be read a first time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The explanation of the Bill which has been put before you is shown in the following despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies which I received by last mail. It is dated 3rd November, 1905:

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 13th October reporting that an Ordinance had been passed by the Legislative Council for raising a sum not exceeding £2,000,000, under the provisions of the Loan Ordinance of 1893, to defray the cost of the railway from Kowloon to Canton and for other railway purposes.

I entirely agree that this is the proper procedure in all ordinary cases, and I should require very strong arguments to induce me to sanction the raising of a Colonial Loan otherwise than by the issue of inscribed stock. But it has been pointed out to me that the circumstances of the present loan, so far as they relate to the advance made to the Viceroy at Wuchang, are altogether exceptional. The loan is to be repaid in ten years at the outside, and possibly after five; and it may prove advantageous to issue this loan in the form of debentures repayable by ten annual drawings proportionate to the instalments due from the Viceroy. It has, therefore, been suggested that the most convenient course will be to amend the Ordinance of 1893 by providing in general terms that notwithstanding the provisions of section 3 it shall be lawful for the Governor to raise money by debentures or partly by debentures and partly by inscribed stock on conditions as to the repayment of the debentures, as the Crown Agents with the approval of the Governor may prescribe. A saving clause should be added providing that nothing shall affect the rights acquired, or liabilities incurred, under the provisions of the principal Ordinance, and it should be made clear that the Amending Ordinance will apply to the loan just authorised.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The Secretary of State further asks that I should report by telegraph as soon as the Ordinance has been passed.

The motion was agreed to.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL then moved the suspension of the Standing Orders so that the Bill be read a second time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was agreed to.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I move that the Bill be now read a second time. The object of the Bill is to give effect to the recommendations of the Secretary of State which His Excellency has just read to us. The Bill amends the Loan Ordinance in this respect only that it authorises the Governor to raise any loan that may be required either by means known as inscribed stock or by debentures, or partly in the one way and partly in the other. The last clause of the Bill makes it clear that the loan authorised by this Council a month or two ago may be, so far as the Railway is concerned, raised either by debenture or by inscribed stock.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was agreed to.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL then moved that the Bill be considered in committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was then considered in committee.

The Hon. Mr. R. SHEWAN—Of course, we understand that before any loan is actually floated the whole question will be discussed by the Council.

HIS EXCELLENCY—You give general power.

The Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—You do not intend to proceed further with the loan without consulting the whole Council. Will the Council not have the opportunity of discussing the terms of the loan and the interest to be paid?

HIS EXCELLENCY—I don't think so.

The Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—Will it be left entirely to the Governor and the Crown Agents?

HIS EXCELLENCY—It will be for the Governor of this Colony to deal with this matter. It will not be a matter convenient to discuss at the Legislative Council.

The Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—Will we have no opportunity of discussing the terms of the loan? To say whether the interest is in our opinion right and proper?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The Governor will take advice but not from the Legislative Council.

The Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—There will be no further reference to the Legislative Council, no chance of discussing it, if we pass the Bill?

HIS EXCELLENCY—No.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—There is none before you pass the Bill. The only difference the Bill makes is as to the means by which the loan will be raised.

The Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—Will there be no opportunity of discussing the terms of the loan?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Not any more than you previously had. I move that the Council resume.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was agreed to.

On the Council resuming,

HIS EXCELLENCY—I report the Bill has passed through committee without alteration.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the Bill be read a third time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded

The Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—I would ask that this Council be adjourned to consider this on another occasion.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Why?

The Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—To give us time to consider our position in the matter. We ought to have an opportunity of discussing the loan.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The Bill only allows the loan to be raised by debentures as well as inscribed stock.

A question having been asked as to the interest.

The Hon. Mr. GERSHOM STEWART said—We never paid more than 3½ per cent.

HIS EXCELLENCY—So far as I recollect we paid 4 or 4½ per cent on the original loan which was converted to 3½ per cent by the Crown Agents in 1893.

The Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—If the terms of the loan are fixed I presume you will not consider the Legislative Council—you will consider the Executive Council.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The Governor will be responsible.

The Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—I think we should have more time to consider the Bill. This is rushing it through—passing three stages in one day.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The hon. member quite understands that it is only in the manner of raising the loan that this Bill—

The Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—I quite understand that. But I understand we should have an opportunity of discussing the terms of the loan, and more time to consider these. Is there any reason why the Bill should be rushed through to-day?

HIS EXCELLENCY—Except that the Secretary of State says it should be passed as soon as possible.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The fact that we were asked to telegraph when the Bill was passed shows the urgency.

The Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—We have had no time to consider it at all.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—It must be obvious that it should be passed as soon as possible. What objection can there be to passing it to-day?

The Hon. Mr. R. SHEWAN—Give us a little time to think over it.

The Hon. Mr. GERSHOM STEWART—They might issue the bonds at 5 per cent. according to this Bill.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—They will be put up for tender.

The Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—Will they be put up to public tender?

The COLONIAL TREASURER—Of course they will. They always are.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—If the honourable gentleman really has the idea that at next meeting of the Council he could show any good reason for not passing the Bill, and he insists upon his objection, the Council must postpone its consideration until a later stage, but before taking that course perhaps the hon. gentleman will reconsider his objection.

The Hon. Mr. R. SHEWAN—I don't wish to obstruct the course of the Bill at all, but perhaps you may be able to give us and the community generally some idea of the terms on which the loan will be raised, because I and a great many people have an interest in this matter. They would say we had not done

our duty if we rushed the Bill through three stages in one day without considering what we are doing. I think we should have an opportunity of giving the Bill some consideration. The Bill itself is innocent enough, but if it be passed, is the Governor to go right ahead without letting us know the terms of the loan? I hope the Governor will be able to tell us the terms of the loan.

His EXCELLENCY—If the meeting were adjourned till Monday I should not be in a position to give any information as to the terms of the loan.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The loan will be obtained on the best terms procurable in the market at the time the loan is issued.

The Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—Is it to be placed in London or left entirely in the hands of the Crown Agents?

His EXCELLENCY—Not entirely to the Crown Agents.

The Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—There is a rooted distrust of the Crown Agents; a great distrust.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The Crown Agents are the recognised agents of the Colony, and the loan will be raised through them. It is just the same as with the Agent General for Australia in London. If you go to Australia or New Zealand you do not find the Government employing outside agents to raise their loans.

The Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—That is just the thing. These agents do not seem to know our terms, and they are not under our control.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Under the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—Yes, under the Secretary of State but not under our control.

His EXCELLENCY—This is not the time to discuss the position of the Crown Agents.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—If you look at the second clause you will find that the money is to be raised by the Crown Agents on terms subject to the approval of the Governor.

The Hon. Mr. R. SHEWAN—Without any further reference of this Bill to the Council?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—To the Council of the Governor. This is a Council for passing laws, not an administrative Council.

The Hon. Mr. R. SHEWAN—The public don't know anything about the deliberations of the Executive Council?

His EXCELLENCY—Do you press your objections, sir?

The Hon. Mr. R. SHEWAN—I think I do, sir, because the public should understand the position of affairs.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I move the standing orders be suspended and the Bill read a third time, if no one objects.

The Hon. Sir PAUL CHATER seconded.

His EXCELLENCY—Any member object?

The Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—Yes, I object.

The Hon. Mr. GERSHOM STEWART—What is the rate of interest? That is the point. I was asked by leading bankers about the rate of interest.

The Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—If there is an urgent reason that the Bill should be passed to-day, please say so.

His EXCELLENCY—The only reason is that if you postpone the motion to a future occasion I shall not be able to give any further information then.

The Hon. Mr. R. SHEWAN—I want to give the public time to think over it. If you assure me it is necessary that the Bill should pass to-day—

His EXCELLENCY—It is desirable.

The Hon. Mr. R. SHEWAN—It has been too much the habit of this Council to rush through Bills. Our constituents blame us for not doing our duty.

His EXCELLENCY—It is desirable but not essential that the Bill should be passed to-day. If you adjourn it till Monday I shall not be able to give you any more information on that point than now.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—We shall never be able to give it.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—You cannot give the information until the Bill is passed.

The Hon. Mr. R. SHEWAN—It will do nobody any harm if we delay it till Monday.

His EXCELLENCY—I shall not know then the conditions under which the loan is to be raised.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The loan will be raised on the best terms obtainable in the market at the time of issue.

The Hon. Mr. R. SHEWAN—How do you know. The best terms were not obtained last time in the opinion of most people.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The Bill does not give the Governor any further power than the Bill of 1893.

The Hon. Mr. R. SHEWAN—As a matter of principle I object to the Bill being rushed through in one day.

His EXCELLENCY—I have explained in my remarks that it is desirable that the Bill should be passed to-day. If the hon. member thinks it advisable to postpone consideration until Monday I am prepared to do it.

The Hon. Mr. R. SHEWAN—Very well, sir. I withdraw my objection.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the Bill be read a third time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

His EXCELLENCY—The Council stands adjourned till after the meeting of the Finance Committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held—the Colonial Secretary presiding.

The following votes were passed:—

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of three hundred and forty eight dollars (\$348) in aid of the vote Miscellaneous Services, Printing Miscellaneous Papers, for 100 copies of Street Index, 2nd Edition.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of four hundred dollars (\$400) in aid of the vote Public Works Department, Other Charges, Language Allowance to Mr. S. R. Moore, Land Bailiff, who has passed the examination in the Hakka Colloquial.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of One hundred and eighteen thousand six hundred and fifty Dollars (\$118,650) in aid of the votes Public Works Annually Recurrent Expenditure and Public Works Extraordinary for the following items:—

| PUBLIC WORKS ANNUALLY RECURRENT EXPENDITURE. | |
|--|----------|
| Maintenance of Buildings | \$2,000 |
| " Gas Lighting, Kowloon | 100 |
| " Roads and Bridges in the City | 1,000 |
| " Roads and Bridges in New Territory | 1,500 |
| " Praya Wall and Piers | 6,500 |
| " Public Cemetery | 500 |
| | \$11,600 |

| PUBLIC WORKS EXTRAORDINARY. | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Bacteriological Institute | \$7,600 |
| Miscellaneous Drainage Works | 15,000 |
| Miscellaneous Works, | 9,800 |
| Forming and Kerbing Streets | 25,000 |
| Miscellaneous Water Works | 5,000 |
| Water Supply—Tytam Tuk Scheme | 40,000 |
| Typhoon Damages | 4,650 |
| | 107,050 |

Total, ... \$118,650

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Sixteen thousand eight hundred and ninety-one dollars and forty-seven cents (\$16,891.47) in aid of the vote, Military expenditure, expenses of Volunteers—Other charges, Rifles and Equipment.

When the Council resumed,

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said—I have to report that Financial minutes Nos. 58 to 61 have been considered by the Finance Committee and the recommendations have been approved. Accordingly I move that the report I have presented be adopted.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

VISIT OF PRINCE ARTHUR.

His EXCELLENCY said—The Council will be glad to learn that I have received news from the Secretary of State that His Royal Highness Prince Arthur of Connaught, on his way to Japan with the commission of the Order of the Garter to the Emperor of Japan, will make a stay in Hongkong. According to present arrangements His Royal Highness will arrive here on the 9th of February and remain here until the 14th. During that time His Royal Highness will pay a visit to Canton (applause).

His EXCELLENCY—The Council is adjourned *sine die*.

A PRISONER'S DEATH.

THE MEDICAL SERVICE OF THE GAOL.

At the Magistracy on the 4th Dec. before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, sitting as coroner, and Messrs. F. F. Bowley, L. A. Rose and E. W. Terry, jurors, an inquiry was held touching the death, which occurred on Saturday, of Ho Ngan, a prisoner in Victoria gaol.

E. J. Pierpoint, chief warder, said the deceased was received into prison on the 19th November, 1903, convicted of robbery with violence, and sentenced to three years' hard labour and 24 strokes of the birch.

Dr. W. B. Moore, medical officer of the gaol, testified to attending deceased on the 25th November, when he admitted him to hospital suffering from dysentery. In spite of the medical treatment he got steadily worse, and died on the night of the 2nd instant. Witness held a post-mortem and found the intestines extensively ulcerated. Death was due to heart failure caused by dysentery. He was not in his room at the hotel when the telephone message was received.

A juror—What is the rule with regard to the attendance of a doctor?

Witness—If they cannot find me, Dr. Jen. Hauck, of the Tungwa Hospital, is rung up.

Mr. Craig—Excuse me, doctor, there is no rule to that effect.

Witness—I understood there was. This man was very ill and might have died at any moment.

A Juror—If in a case of emergency the doctor is required at once, and is out, what is the practice?

His Worship—I will call the superintendent on that point.

R. H. Craig, assistant superintendent of the gaol, stated that the usual practice in case of illness was to ring up the medical officer. He was usually found, but if not likely to be there, witness had been instructed to call on another doctor, or the Government Civil Hospital. In this case the Hospital would have been rung up, but the prisoner died within eight minutes of the call.

His Worship informed the jury that they had a right, if they desired, to add a rider to their verdict. If they wished to consider the matter, they could retire.

The jury retired, and on returning brought in a verdict of death from natural causes. They also added a rider in which they said—"The jury considers that a doctor should be always in attendance at the gaol hospital."

PIRATES HOLD UP A JUNK.

A startling affair was reported to Inspector Collett as having occurred in the vicinity of Mins Bay on Dec. 1st. As a fishing junk was under way, a second boat ran alongside, and before the crew of the first realised what had happened, the pirates had boarded their craft and covered them with revolvers and rifles. The crew of the fishing boat were then secured in their cabin, and the robbers proceeded to transfer the junk's cargo to their own vessel. This consisted of 120 piculs of salt fish and a large quantity of clothing, the value of which has so far not been ascertained. Having completed the transshipment of the booty, the pirates proceeded on their way, leaving the helpless crew of the junk to their fate. The fishermen, after 23 hours' work, succeeded in forcing open the cabin door, and at once set sail for Hongkong and reported the occurrence. So sudden had been the descent upon them, however, that they could tell the police little which would prove of assistance in their search. A junk containing 50 or 60 piculs of salt fish has been seized, and two of its crew are detained in custody.

The 301st plague case was recorded on Dec. 5.

In view of the extensive smuggling going on at present in the opium trade, the Government, it is said, contemplates transferring the collection of the likin thereon to Sir Robert Hart's administration, foreign officers to be employed for the purpose.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 1st December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

AN EMPLOYEE'S CLAIM.

S. D. Hickie sued the Robinson Piano Company to recover the sum of \$911.31, being as to \$825, three months' salary in lieu of notice of dismissal, and as to \$86.31, arrears of salary for the month of October.

Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Mr. John Hastings' office) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. C. E. H. Beavis (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) for the defendant.

The case was adjourned for pleadings.

Saturday, 2nd December.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR F. T. PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

AN IMPROPER ACTION.

On taking his seat in Court his Lordship said there was a matter which he wished to make public mention of before proceeding with the business of the Court. He said he had received a letter from one of the parties, or more properly a person professing to be interested, in an action in which he had recently delivered judgment. The letter complained in the first instance that the writer had been unable to obtain a copy of that judgment; but that, of course, was due to the way in which law reports were published in the Colony, which was well known to the public and the profession. But, as they no doubt knew, he was completing arrangements for a verbatim report of all judgments delivered; this arrangement would start with the New Year. The writer of the letter proceeded to criticise his judgment, but of that he would say nothing further than that such action was improper, and he would hand the letter to the counsel engaged in the case referred to, who no doubt would make proper representations.

WRIT OF ATTACHMENT GRANTED.

An application was made by Messrs. Leigh and Orange for a writ of foreign attachment against certain properties of Chan Fung Shan's.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, made the application on behalf of the plaintiffs. He said the plaintiffs sought the attachment in satisfaction of a claim for \$11,586.25, for work done, commission earned, and money paid on behalf of the defendant. Search had been made and inquiries instituted regarding the whereabouts of the defendant, and it was believed he was out of the colony.

After hearing the evidence his Lordship granted the application.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

Monday, 4th December.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

APPLICATION FOR AN INJUNCTION.

The North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh, sought an injunction to restrain Messrs. Jorge and Co. from infringing the trade mark applied to indiarubber shoes manufactured by the plaintiff company. The application was for (1) an injunction to restrain the defendants, their servants and agents, from infringing the plaintiffs' trade marks and from passing off goods not of the plaintiffs' manufacture as and for goods manufactured by the plaintiffs; (2) an account or damages; (3) delivery up of the marked goods; and (4) further and other relief; and (5) costs.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., (instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson) of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, appeared for the plaintiffs, whose registered office is at Castle Mills, Edinburgh, Scotland. He explained that the action was brought for an injunction to restrain the defendant company from infringing a trademark applied to indiarubber shoes, which mark was long ago registered in England as a

trademark of the plaintiff company and also by their agents, Messrs. W. G. Humphreys and Co., in Hongkong. The infringement complained of was the sale by defendants of indiarubber shoes bearing on them a lion rampant similar in appearance to the lion rampant trademark registered by the plaintiff company, and applied by them to the indiarubber shoes they manufactured.

In reply to his Lordship, Mr. Pollock stated that there had been an action against the Godown Company in October when an interim injunction was granted. Proceeding, he said there were two motions—the one against Messrs. Jorge and Co. and the other for judgment. The first motion was supported by affidavits—o e filed by Mr. Jorge and the second by Mr. W. G. Humphreys. Mr. Jorge stated that he was willing that an injunction should be granted. Mr. Jorge, who had obtained independent advice, added that he was not aware that the mark upon the shoes in question was an infringement of the trademark of the plaintiffs. Mr. Humphreys, in his affidavit, said his firm were the sole agents in Hongkong of the plaintiffs, whose shoes had obtained a considerable reputation among the Chinese in South China. The defendants were selling shoes bearing a device similar to plaintiffs' trademark, which was calculated to deceive purchasers. In conclusion, Mr. Pollock said they did not wish to press hardly on defendants, provided they placed marks on the goods so that purchasers would not think they were buying shoes manufactured by the plaintiff firm.

His Lordship gave judgment for plaintiffs in terms of the writ, the damages to be assessed at a subsequent inquiry by the Registrar.

In the second action, the same plaintiffs against the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., Mr. Pollock asked for relief of the terms endorsed on the writ of summons. On 23rd October an injunction was obtained against the defendant company to restrain them from parting with 15 cases of indiarubber shoes which infringed plaintiffs' trade mark. Plaintiffs now wished the shoes to be delivered to them, and he wished the injunction to be modified accordingly.

His Lordship consented, and judgment was entered for plaintiffs in terms of the amended motion.

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE.

On the motion of Mr. H. E. Pollock that Mr. John Henry Gardiner be approved, admitted and enrolled as a solicitor in that Court, his Lordship said the gentleman's papers were in order and the Court wished him every success in his profession.

Wednesday, 6th November.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE), and MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

TAM MAN SAM P. TAM YAU AND CHEUNG SAN PANG.

This was a notice of motion to vary an order made in the Court of Summary Jurisdiction on November 4th. Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Mr. Stevenson) appeared for the appellants and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis) appeared for the respondents.

Mr. Slade stated that the application was to vary or discharge an order of that honourable Court made in that action on 4th November so far as regarded that portion thereof staying execution against plaintiff in this action in respect of the costs and the hearing thereof in the Summary Jurisdiction of that honourable Court.

Mr. Pollock took a preliminary objection that the appeal was not in time, having been lodged after the usual ten days after the order was made.

The objection was overruled.

Mr. Slade then explained the case for appellants, and argued that the order to stay as to those costs should not have been made unless respondents' solicitors refused to give an undertaking to repay them.

The Chief Justice—Assuming that we made an order to stay execution against you, you say we should not have made that order?

Mr. Slade—Yes, my clients were to receive the costs. We were successful in the court below, and have an order for costs. Your order is that we are precluded from recovering those costs. I submit that the order should not have been made, and secondly, having been made it should not have been enforced unless we refused to give an undertaking to pay.

Mr. Pollock contended that an appeal should not amount to a stay of execution.

Legal debate followed.

The Court reserved judgment.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR F. T. PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ALTERATION OF ARTICLES.

A petition was presented to the Court by the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited, to confirm a special resolution of the society providing for the alteration of the provisions of the memorandum of association of the Society. Mr. Sharp, K.C., and Mr. Pollock, K.C., (instructed by Mr. F. V. Deacon) appeared in support of the application.

Mr. Sharp said the petition was to confirm a special resolution of the Society to enlarge its objects as they were stated in the memorandum of association. The application was made under section 14 of the Companies' Ordinance, and as his Lordship had directed, the petition had been advertised in the daily papers and in the *Gazette*. This resolution was passed and confirmed practically unanimously by the Society at the necessary general meetings in November last, and his Lordship would see that there were substantially three provisions in the resolution. The first was a provision for partnerships or arrangements for a union of interest with persons or other companies carrying on similar businesses. The second was a provision for acquiring shares in other companies carrying on similar businesses. The third was a provision for a general power of investment of the surplus funds of the society, which was already adequately provided for by article 112 of the Companies' Ordinance. Those alterations would enable the company to generally carry on its business more economically and efficiently, particularly by means of certain arrangements it was prepared to enter into with the China Traders Co., Ltd. This would mean that the business would be conducted by one staff instead of two, much of the cost of re-insurance would be saved, and the energy presently directed to competing with each other would be applied to a common end. Between the two companies there would be co-operation instead of competition. They submitted that that alteration at least, so far as the arrangement with the China Traders Company was concerned, was shown by affidavits to be beneficial to the society. The financial position of both was excellent. The Society had a paid up capital of a million; its surplus, apart from uncalled capital, was over eight and a half millions; and its surplus including uncalled capital was over 10 millions, while the market value of the shares at \$100 paid up was about \$750 to-day. He might add that since the proposed arrangement was announced the price of shares in both had risen. During the last 15 years the ratio of loss, the policy holders claims to premia, had been on the average about 60 per cent. or under. The China Traders Company had a paid up capital of \$60,000; the surplus, apart from uncalled capital, was \$2,300,000, and the surplus including uncalled capital was over \$3,700,000; while the market value of the shares on which \$25 had been paid was about \$90. Similarly for the last 15 years the ratio between the premia and claims had been very much the same as indicated with regard to the Society. Never once had the losses trenching on the ample reserve. Every year the claims could be met on the premia alone. The interests of policy holders were amply secured by the enormous reserve of those two companies, and though they had had ample notice not a single policy holder had come forward to object.

The Chief Justice—Has the amalgamation been specially mentioned?

Mr. Sharp—It is widely known in the business world. Besides, the meetings have been fully reported in the press. Proceeding he referred to his Lordship's objection in

chambers to give them a *carte blanche* to enter into arrangements with various societies, and said they would give an undertaking not to enter, until existing policies had expired, into any arrangement with any person or company otherwise than by way of ordinary investment of funds except with regard to the China Traders Company, Ltd.

Some discussion ensued on the use of the word partnership, and Mr. Sharp explained that the society merely sought to purchase shares in the China Traders Company in order to protect themselves. It could scarcely be called a partnership: they would be merely shareholders. What they desired was a union of interests.

His Lordship thought he was justified in assuming, in the face of the figures before him, that the business of both companies had been carried on in a most satisfactory manner and that the interests of shareholders had been properly looked after. He thought in view of the high position in the colony of the directors and officers concerned, and in view of the price of the shares and the dividends which had been paid, he thought he was justified in granting the prayer of the petition.

Thursday, 7th December.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE MILLIONAIRE BANKRUPT.

The case of Choi Chung Lee alias Choy Chung *ex parte* Loi Tai Chau was again mentioned.

Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, who appeared for the creditors and in the capacity of Crown Solicitor, applied for the discharge of the warrant issued by his Lordship last month. The debtor was now in the custody of the police in connection with certain charges of fraud relative to his bankruptcy.

Mr. P. W. Goldring, on behalf of the debtor made application for an order from his Lordship for the return of the \$5,000 deposited as security for debtor's appearance by Leung Nam Po.

His Lordship—You want the security discharged?

Mr. Goldring—Yes.

His Lordship—But the debtor's public examination may be continued. (To Mr. Wakeman, the Official Receiver)—Have you any objection to the refunding of the security?

Mr. Wakeman—No, my Lord.

Mr. Bowley—I thought the security had been released. When the debtor was arrested there was no need for the security.

Mr. Dixon, who represented the creditors, remarked that the money might be held until the public examination was concluded.

His Lordship said he thought the security was only given for his appearance and the best security for his appearance was the Government custody. There could be no better security.

Mr. Dixon—Supposing he is discharged at the Magistracy?

His Lordship—Then you must watch the proceedings and apply again.

Mr. Dixon—He might be discharged to-morrow afternoon.

His Lordship—Is he coming to the Criminal Sessions or going before the magistrate?

Mr. Bowley—He will go before the magistrate.

Mr. Dixon—He might be discharged by the magistrate, my Lord.

His Lordship—Yes, that is so. I can't discharge the security. If he is committed to the Criminal Sessions then I can do so. I don't feel justified in keeping his security longer than I can help.

Mr. Goldring then asked for the debtor's public examination to be closed.

His Lordship—I can't deal with that now (To Mr. Wakeman)—Your public examination won't touch the subject for which he is being prosecuted. His public examination will be independent of that. I should have thought you might conclude very quickly with that.

Mr. Wakeman—I cannot say offhand, my Lord.

His Lordship—I should imagine the public examination will not deal at all with the matter of the furniture. That matter is beyond us, so that you will take such steps as to conclude

the public examination. There is not very much left, I think?

Mr. Wakeman—I think not, my Lord.

His Lordship—Well, run through the papers and see what else you might examine him on. The simplest course will be that the security stands until the conclusion of the public examination which will be concluded very shortly. Try bring it to off next Thursday if you can. The warrant will, therefore, be discharged.

A FRUITLESS JOURNEY.

Re the Wong Fung firm.

Mr. Wakeman said his Lordship would remember that this case was adjourned in order to see if debtor could make some arrangement. He went to Canton in the hope of raising funds sufficient to start business again but he did not succeed. It was a question of whether his stock-in-trade should be sold or whether he should re-start his business.

His Lordship said he was afraid nothing could be done, and the public examination was closed.

ADJOURNED CASES.

Re Wing On *ex parte* Tang Snn, the application of Mr. Goldring that the debtor firm be declared bankrupt, was adjourned till next Thursday, as was also the public examination re the Po Cheung alias Ko Shing Cheung firm.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

SEQUEL TO A COLLISION.

Leung Fun, owner of cargo lighters, brought an action against Wong Tsun, owner of passenger junk no. S 204 H trading between the city of Victoria and new Kowloon, for the recovery of the sum of \$700, being damages sustained by plaintiff through a collision between defendant's junk and plaintiff's lighter on the 27th September last, caused by negligence on the part of the master of the defendant's junk.

Mr. O. D. Thomson appeared for plaintiff, while the defendant did not appear, nor was he represented.

His Lordship gave judgment for plaintiff with costs.

WATER RETURN.

The Hon. Mr. Chatham, as the Water Authority, on Saturday issued the following return of the level and storage of water in Reservoirs on the 1st December:—

| | LEVEL. | |
|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | 1904. | 1905. |
| | Above overflow. | Below overflow. |
| Tytam | 0 ft. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. | 11 ft. 3 in. |
| | Below overflow. | Below overflow. |
| Byewash | 28 ft. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. | 23 ft. 3 in. |
| Pokfulam | 10 ft. 9 in. | 17 ft. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. |
| Wongnaicheong | 45 ft. 2 in. | 45 ft. 3 in. |
| | STORAGE GALLONS. | |
| | 1904. | 1905. |
| Tytam | 385,160,000 | 295,900,000 |
| Byewash | — | — |
| Pokfulam | 42,680,000 | 29,540,000 |
| Wongnaicheong | — | — |
| Total | 427,840,000 | 325,440,000 |

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.

| | 1904. | 1905. |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Consumption | 123,229,000 | 116,409,000 gallons |
| Estimated population | 226,000 | 230,900 |
| Consumption per head per day | 18.2 | 16.8 gallons |

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON PENINSULA DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.

| | 1904. | 1905. |
|------------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Consumption | 15,680,000 | 15,224,000 gallons |
| Estimated population | 70,700 | 76,350 |
| Consumption per head per day | 7.4 | 6.6 gallons |

The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

W. CHATHAM.
Water Authority.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

30th November.

A BRITISH SUBJECT IN TROUBLE.

A British subject named Raeburn, who was in the employ of Messrs. Butterfield & Swire as overseer at their godowns on the Honam, was charged with pushing a Chinaman into the water from his houseboat. The case was heard at the British Consulate, and the charge being proved, Raeburn has been sentenced to 45 hours' imprisonment and fined \$100. He has been dismissed by his employers.

CANTON-WHAMPOA RAILWAY AGAIN.

A scheme for the construction of a railway line from Canton to Whampoa has been on the boards for some time. It is now reported that this railway will be linked to the Swatow-Chinchou line. The Canton-Whampoa line will be 12 miles in length and will cost about 800,000 dollars. Viceroy Shum has instructed the Customs and Likin Bureaus to report to him whether they see any objections to the construction of the line. The line will probably start from the end of the Bund at the east end of the town and a great boom in land is expected in that neighbourhood.

A RICH COOLIE.

In the city of Tai-Ma-Chan, a chair coolie recently won a prize of \$18,000 in the Shan Piu lottery. An expectant taotai who was formerly his employer called on him in his official robes and endeavoured to obtain a loan of \$2,000 from the lucky man. The coolie informed him that he had placed his fortune in the hands of his relatives and that he regretted to be unable to help him. The Taotai left in high dudgeon.

A MACAO CLAIM.

The Portuguese Consul-General here has sent a dispatch to Viceroy Shum claiming from Li King-cho a partner of the Yuen-Shun Bank of Canton the sum of \$2,000 borrowed from the Tai-Loong firm of Macao. The Consul further states that Li King-cho uttered a false receipt. Defendant recently absconded from Macao and the Viceroy is requested to order him to be arrested and prosecuted.

A ROBBER GANG.

Robbery is rife at present in the numerous villages outside the North Gate. The different police stations in the neighbourhood have now been warned to keep a strict watch as the robbers are known to have planned further attacks. They are said to be in hiding near the Western suburbs.

Canton, 2nd December.

THE LINCHOW AFFAIR.

I am informed that the Linchow commissioners, having finished their investigation, will start on Sunday, the 3rd inst., for Canton. The result of the enquiry is kept very secret and nothing can be gathered from outsiders. It appears the European Cemetery there has been destroyed and the graves desecrated. All the iron railings, about a mile in length, around the mission hospital have been carried away. The news regarding the colonel commanding the militia is confirmed. I am informed that he is one of the many who will be executed.

THE BOYCOTT.

At 4 o'clock on the 30th ult. the boycott committee here received a telegraphic reply from the Chinese merchants in San Francisco to the following effect: The Boycott committee are of opinion that the Exclusion Act must be repealed: nothing short of this will give full satisfaction. We rely upon you to do your utmost towards this end.

SMUGGLING.

The Commissioner of Customs has issued a proclamation stating that the Customs will handsomely reward any person giving information leading to the seizure of smuggled goods on a large scale. The informant will receive 6 per cent. of the net value of the cargo seized.

SEIZURE OF COAL.

Some time ago the Yiu Cheung coal godown, said to belong to the Chau Tung Sang, was seized and confiscated. It is now reported that a man surnamed Fung claims the coal as his property. He says he consigned the boat to the Yiu Cheung Co. for sale and that he has never been paid.

Fung has petitioned the Hongkong Government, requesting H. E. the Governor to send a despatch to Canton to obtain the release of the coal. Fung will come up to Canton with solicitors to discuss the matter with the Chinese officials at the British Consulate.

A UNIFORM COINAGE.

It is reported that a telegram has been received here stating that the Peking government has decided to adopt uniform coinage for all the provinces. The new coins will be of the following values: 1 tael, 5 mace, 2 mace and 1 mace. The value of the tael, which varies at present from province to province, will thus constitute China's standard coin and will henceforth have the same value everywhere.

4th December.

THE LINCHOW AFFAIR.

Admiral Li-Tsun has received a telegram stating that Leong-Sheng, Chinese Minister to the United States, has had several conferences with the Washington Government and that there is every probability that the affair will be settled in a peaceful manner. It is not expected that an indemnity will be demanded, the Chinese Government having promised to make good all losses and to rebuild the properties destroyed, Church, Hospital, Mission House, etc., and to punish in an exemplary manner all those who are implicated in the affair.

As previously reported, the Commission was to leave Linchow yesterday (Sunday). I am informed, however, that the date has been postponed to the 10th as some more important matters remain to be investigated. The Commission has decided to leave no stone unturned to get to the bottom of the affair, hence the prolonged stay. It appears that the men from the two deserted villages have not yet decided to return to their homes.

PEKING COLLEGE FOR CANTONESE.

Their Excellencies Tai Hung-chi and Wu Ting-fang have established a college in Peking for the benefit of Cantonese students, who will be provided there with board and lodging, and have asked Viceroy Shum to give pecuniary assistance. The Viceroy has ordered the Provincial treasurer, the Salt Comptroller, the Sin-Hau-Kuk and the chief Likin bureau to subscribe.

CANTON-WHAMPOA RAILWAY.

His Excellency Chan-Pa-tze, Minister of Agriculture, Railways and Mines of the two Kwang, etc., has sent a despatch to Viceroy Shum recommending the building of this line at an early date. Viceroy Shum has ordered the Provincial Treasurer and the Sin-Hau-Kuk to make a joint report, and the following suggestions were the result:—

(1) The company shall be called the Canton-Amoy Railway Co., Limited, and the head office will be at the Ching Hoi Mun. The line will start from the East Gate of the city and will run to Whampoa. When this section is completed the line will be extended to Tsang-Shing, thence to Shik-Loeng, Pok-Lo, Hoi-Luk-Fung and to Chiem-ohow, from whence the line will be pushed on to its contemplated terminus at Amoy. The first section is that from Canton to Whampoa, a distance of 40 li: Whampoa to become the commercial port. (2) Chinese subjects alone, to take up the 8,000 shares of Tls. 100 each making the initial capital Tls. 800,000. Interest at the rate of 6 per cent. will be paid on the subscribed capital. (3) Power to employ labour for the construction of the line. (4) Power to purchase land. (5) Power to engage constructors and d puties. (6) Power to prevent illegal acts and "underhand work." (7) The concession of the company to be for 60 years. (8) Choice of the route to be followed to be determined by the company. No other railway to be built by other companies within ten miles on either side of the line. (9) Power to engage military guards to protect the line. (10) Power to erect telegraph lines. (11) Privilege to carry goods and merchandise to places not within the reach of boats. (12) In case of war or rebellion, traffic to be stopped and the line to be at the disposal of the Government. (13) To draw up regulations and file same with the Government and to make an estimate of the cost of building the line. (14) The time within which each section shall be completed. (15) Natives of the section through which the line

runs to be employed as much as possible on the works. (16) Mails to be carried. (17) After the payment of 6 per cent. interest is made, bonus and dividends to be declared should there be surplus profits. (18) A board of directors to be appointed. (19) Duty stations for the collection of revenue to be established on the route. (20) To provide rewards for efficient directors, constructors and for good services and good rapid work. (21) The gauge to be uniform throughout.

5th November.

THE WHAMPOA MURDER CASE.

The Japanese prisoner charged with the murder of a compatriot will be taken back to Japan to stand his trial. Mr. Noma was up here last week to take the depositions of the numerous witnesses who are unable to go to Japan.

THE LINCHOW AFFAIR: CONFESSIONS.

Shum Lun Shui, the cashiered prefect of Linchow, has sent the following report to Viceroy Shum:—"Large rewards have been offered for the arrest of the men connected with the Linchow massacre. Twenty men have already been arrested, amongst whom is a man named Hung-Ah-Shun, who confesses that he stabbed the lady doctor (Miss Eleanor Chestnut). Five other men confessed to having carried various weapons and to have taken a part. Another admits beating a gong and calling upon the people to take revenge, while eight others admitted being present during the slaughter. In the course of his deposition, Dr. Machle accused a Monk named Nan-Sing of demanding squeeze from him under threat of disclosing their hiding place. A great number of men confessed to being present during the massacre but no direct evidence could be produced proving conclusively that they had a hand in it. Men who were accused of beating gongs on the occasion denied the charge, and three men who, according to an informer, had taken part in the riot also denied the charge and were supported by a member of the gentry called Mok-Yü-Po, who stated that they were falsely accused, and that the real offenders having committed their crime in broad daylight it would not be difficult to establish their identity. Wen Taotai and Deputy Chang are taking great pains in questioning witnesses to obtain evidence. The new Prefect Tang-Cheuk-Tong reached Linchow on the 18th ultimo and has taken up his post." The cashiered prefect further adds in his report that he is doing his utmost to cause all the guilty parties to be arrested but that many of them must have fled to other places.

S.S. "KINSHAN" IN COLLISION.

On the 3rd instant the s.s. *Kinshan* collided with a Fatsan passenger junk which was towed by a steam launch. The junk was seriously damaged and for a time quite a panic prevailed amongst the passengers on the craft. The collision occurred in the fairway to the west of Shameen.

UPS AND DOWNS OF CHINESE OFFICIALS.

At the beginning of this year the salt monopolist of a certain prefecture of the Kwantung Province having absconded, Wong-Tai-Kwan, an expectant prefect, memorialized Viceroy Shum on the subject and submitted a scheme for the collection of the salt revenue. Viceroy Shum approved of the scheme and appointed Wong Salt Commissioner of the prefecture in question. Wong's scheme failed to come up to expectations, as the revenue decreased instead of increasing as promised in his memorial. When Wong sent his quarterly report to the Viceroy, His Excellency memorialized the throne and denounced him as an incapable official and degraded him; while allowing him to remain in office so as to mend his ways and retrieve past errors. Meanwhile the Chinese Minister in London recommended Wong to the throne suggesting that he should be appointed Consul General for China in Singapore. The Peking Court approved and Wong got his appointment. Viceroy Shum bearing this has memorialized the throne informing the Central Government that Wong had been cashiered and that he will not be allowed to leave Kwantung for his post until all accounts have been properly rendered and the losses in revenue incurred through his bad management have been made good.

6th December.

THE LINCHOW AFFAIR.

The following is a translation of a letter received here by the Yeung-Shing-po from its correspondent at Linchow:—

"Wen-Tsung-Yao (Taotai) and several deputies who were ordered by Viceroy Shum to investigate the Linchow massacre arrived here together with the American Consul General and his party. The moment they landed, the Consul-General and the other American officials immediately purchased large quantities of flowers and went to the graves of the victims and deposited on their tombs their tribute of respect for the unfortunate victims of the massacre. They retired after that to their house-boat and sent for a member of the gentry who related at great length the circumstances attending the massacre. The questioning of prisoners and witnesses was then proceeded with. Criminals (22) who had been arrested previous to the arrival of the Commission, had their heads shaved, were bathed, and attired in clean new clothes. This was no doubt appreciated by the members of the commission who had to remain for hours in their company. When these men appeared before the court they were told that they were not required to kneel down, as is the custom, and that they would not be tortured. They were accommodated with low stools to sit on. Wen-Tsung-Yao then addressed them as follows: 'You, prisoners, have been the cause of the murder of several Europeans, thus implicating the people of Linchow and the officials. You, prisoners, must confess frankly what you have done, showing that you are brave men.' To this, one of the criminals, surnamed Leong, replied that he confessed to have taken part in the massacre. Another, surnamed An Yong, confessed to having received \$20 from the missionaries to hire a boat. He took the money but did not carry out the errand he had undertaken. Wen-Tsung-Yao severely reprimanded him for his wrongful act and said that having accepted the money he should have carried out his promise; and that, although he did not kill, personally any of the Europeans, yet he was in a measure responsible for what happened afterwards and said, 'You fully deserve the penalty of capital punishment and you are entitled to no pity.'

"Another prisoner, Tang-Chat, said: 'The Europeans were in the wrong. For instance, there used to be a wide road alongside of the church. This the mission people tried to close to traffic. The matter was referred to the Prefect, who decided against the mission's claim. Notwithstanding this, the missionaries fenced the road and compelled us to use a road much further away. Another wrongful act was the following: We Chinese people have great belief in our Joss (神) and the ceremony of Ta-Chui worshipping. On this occasion, while we were offering up our prayers for our future welfare and prosperity, the missionaries interfered with our ceremonies, snatched our joss away and also took away several bombs. Yet another wrong was done to us, as we have discovered the dead bodies of young children on their premises.' The American Consul-General made no reply to these statements.

"No torture was applied; the men confessed and stated their case frankly.

"It appears that on the day the American Consul-General arrived, Mr. Lay insisted on hoisting the American flag in the suburbs of Linchow city. Taotai Wen strongly objected to this and stated that if this was done he would immediately return to Canton as he could not give them protection. Consul Lay gave in, and the flag was not hoisted."

MR. SCOTT'S RECOVERY.

Consul-General Scott, having recovered from his recent illness, returned to-day. A call was made on him by Tartar-General Shao, who recently arrived here from Peking.

THE BOYCOTT HERO.

On the 3rd inst. Fung-Hai-Wai's ancestral tablets was placed in the Po-Lum temple of Tai-Leung city. Thousands of people including students from various colleges attended the ceremony. Amongst them were to be found numerous pilgrims from Hongkong and Macao who had come to show their respect for the Boycott Hero.

Canton, 7th November.

THE LINCHOW AFFAIR.

It is reported that the Linchow commission has asked for the execution of three of the murderers on the 8th instant. The commission is expected to start on the return journey on the 10th and will reach Canton about the 16th or 17th. Minister Leong Shing has cabled to the Peking Government informing them that he had received a communication from the United States Government stating that the Missionaries had agreed not to demand an indemnity for the Linchow Massacre.

FORTUNE'S FAVOURITE.

Viceroy Shum memorialized the Throne sometime ago recommending for promotion Cheung-Yu-Lok, the ex provincial Judge of Kwangtung, who had been degraded two steps in rank for inflicting unnecessary torture on a prisoner called Mak-Ah-Sui, who died in prison through the injuries received during the course of his trial. Judge Cheng was appointed to the On-Hui province lately and, through Viceroy Shum's exertions on his behalf, has now been summoned by the Throne to appear at a special audience so as to receive the Imperial pardon. Cheung-Yu-Lok will be restored to his former rank.

POST OFFICE MONOPOLY.

The Kwangtung Post-master of the Imperial Chinese Post has received instructions from Peking to severely punish all illicit carriers of mail matter. All parcels and letters must henceforward pass through the Imperial Post-office.

MUST STICK TO TREATY PORTS.

A French merchant who recently established a firm and godown at To-shing in the Sai-Ning district, has had to abandon the business and to take the sign board down, as the Chinese objected.

COPPER COINAGE.

The Board of Revenue at Peking has cabled Viceroy Shum and the Viceroy of Fokien that their joint application for permission to export copper coins has been granted. There will be a heavy demand for these coins, and the Kwangtung and Fokien mints will be kept busy, as those coppers are said to be heavier than the foreign coins, which stand now at 10 per cent. discount.

ARTS AND MANUFACTURES.

A meeting was held yesterday in the Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of establishing a large shop for the furtherance of every branch of art and manufacture. The capital is to be \$1,000,000, and 80 per cent has been already subscribed. The charitable institutions are investing their reserves at 8½ per cent interest. Everything that can be locally made will be handled by this company, whose object is to provide work for artisans of all crafts and to gradually substitute Chinese-made articles for the imported ones. A Commercial Press will be established in conjunction with this institution and will give reports of the state of the market and general commercial news.

MASONIC INSTALLATION.

At the Masonic Hall on Dec. 6th the officers for the ensuing year of the Naval and Military Lodge were installed. They were as under:—Right Worshipful Master, Wor. Bro. J. Smith; Immediate Past Master, Wor. Bro. F. J. W. Last; Depute Master, Wor. Bro. W. E. Claret; Wor. Senior Warden, Bro. A. W. Hill; Wor. Junior Warden, Bro. E. A. Chapman; Treasurer, Bro. W. J. Gast; Secretary, Bro. J. J. Blake; Chaplain, Bro. Young Hee; Junior Deacon, Bro. G. Cleare; Senior Deacon, Bro. J. Roberts; Director of Ceremonies, Bro. A. E. Standage; Organist, Bro. A. A. Caesar; Inner Guard, Bro. G. W. Coysh; Stewards, Bro. R. MacLeod and Bro. C. H. Parkinson; Tyler, Bro. J. Vanstone. After the installation ceremony, those present adjourned to the banqueting hall, where a banquet was held in honour of the Right Worshipful Master, Brother John Smith. The usual toasts being honoured, and the wants of the inner man appeased by the tempting dishes provided, an impromptu musical programme was gone through, and with its conclusion a very pleasant evening terminated.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR HONGKONG.

A meeting of ladies and gentlemen interested in the formation of a Horticultural Society for Hongkong was held last evening in the City Hall. His Excellency, the Governor, Sir M. Nathan, presided over a good attendance, and was supported by H. E. the General Officer Commanding (Major General Villiers Hatton), the Chief Justice (Sir Francis Pigott), the Attorney-General (Sir Henry Berkeley), and Mr. S. T. Dunn, Superintendent of the Botanical and Afforestation Department.

His Excellency the Governor, in opening the meeting, said—As no doubt most of you are aware a horticultural society existed here before. It was established on the 3rd February, 1873, and lasted exactly ten years, the last exhibition held under its auspices being on the 16th February, 1883. The society then seems to have died away, as institutions do in this colony with its ever shifting community. The meeting being held to-day is with the object of reviving that horticultural society. If we cannot have continuity, the next best thing is to get a revival of old institutions. The principal object of the society is, as has been placed before you, to hold annual shows for the improvement of plants and vegetables grown in the Colony. There is another object to which I trust the society if formed will give its serious consideration, and that is to improve the gardening department. A short time ago a lady spoke to me on the subject. She had just been over to Kowloon, and, being a new arrival in the colony, was struck by the disgraceful way in which people kept their gardens. She asked—Could the Government not do something. Of course I was pleased with that touching belief in the Governor's powers, but it seemed to me more a matter for private enterprise if such a society were to be formed with good results. Of course the conditions in Hongkong are not altogether favourable for horticulture. We can hardly hope to get the beautiful gardens in the English fashion with velvety turf, closely clipped hedges and herbaceous borders nor can we hope to find a useful model in the Dutch garden with its formal flower beds and geometrical arrangement. The Italian garden with its shaded walks, tall trees and grottoes has a good deal worthy of imitation. I don't look to see the Persian garden surrounded by a square wall and filled with rose trees and orange trees and water running down the centre. The Chinese garden, so far as I know anything about it, consists mostly of ponds, pagodas and bridges. The Japanese, I think, of all peoples, have sought to embody abstract ideas in their gardening, and with people in Hongkong taking an interest in gardening, especially those with plenty of spare time on their hands, one may certainly look forward to the time when Hongkong will be known as a place where "many a flower by water blows." As regards the object of the society, there is no doubt that there is a love of flowers in the colony, I would like to see more flowers grown here and their quality improved. Then as to vegetables, I have always looked upon the garden as the place for flowers and the green-grocers' shop for vegetables. We want to improve the character of the vegetables grown in the market gardens, and to get them grown under conditions which will make them more healthy for consumption. In time also the society will see its way to extend its efforts in this direction and encourage the improvement of gardening produce apart from market gardening. I don't think it should be too ambitious in the first instance, but I trust it will confine itself at present to develop the interest in horticulture, improve the quality of the gardening, and also of the conditions under which the vegetables are grown in market gardens. If it achieves any one of these purposes it will have done useful work and if it achieves all three it will have become an important factor in improving the Colony for all. (Applause.)

Mr. Dunn then explained the proposed constitution and scope of the society. He said that as His Excellency had remarked they were all anxious to do the best they could to improve the gardens in Hongkong. They had drawn

up a set of rules on which a horticultural society should be formed.

Rule 1 was—The Society shall be called the Hongkong Horticultural Society and shall have for its object the encouragement of gardening in Hongkong.

As this implied, the chief object of the proposed society was to provide the means of improving our gardens. How successful gardening could be, has been shown in a few well known gardens, not only in Hongkong and Kowloon but also at the Peak. There might be and ought to be many more gardens like them. Co-operation was all that was wanted. The owners of gardens and fruit farms should have some regular means of exchanging their views and experiences, especially with regard to the introduction of new flowers, vegetables and fruits. They should adopt co-operative methods in getting out their seeds and other garden requisites; they should form a library of works on tropical gardening and should freely consult it. Much fuller use should be made than at present of the Government Gardens, and constant and thorough co-operation should be maintained with the Government Botanical Department. These desiderata were practically impossible of accomplishment without a Horticultural Society. What we wanted was a society to hold meetings at which we could exchange our views, to get out our seeds, to lend us books, and to obtain and distribute to us in due time the new plants introduced by the Government together with the necessary advice for cultivating them.

Rule 2.—Any person interested in horticulture is eligible as a member.

Everyone is, of course, welcome and I hope that the society may eventually include ladies and gentlemen of all the different nationalities in Hongkong united in the one object of beautifying our own and each other's gardens, and improving the quality and quantity of their produce. The interest already exhibited in the movement was very encouraging. As they knew their Excellencies the Governor and the General would allow their names to stand as patrons of the society and Sir Paul Chater had not only consented to be a patron but had enlisted the interests of a large number of his influential friends and had, with them, most kindly promised to provide a sum of money which would give to the society a satisfactory financial basis. So they would see that as regarded personal support the society would start at the outset under good auspices. (Applause.)

Rule 3.—The subscriptions shall be five dollars per annum payable on election or on the 1st of May in each year; the funds of the society shall be expended upon an annual exhibition of flowers, vegetables and for other purposes connected with the object of the society.

The details as to the amount of subscription and date of payment would naturally engage the attention of the Society itself when formed. This sum would, however, probably be about the correct one for our present needs. The first call on the funds and the chief function of the society would undoubtedly be the annual flower show. Shows were not only essential for the healthy progress of gardening but helped to encourage friendly intercourse and exchange of gardening ideas with our neighbours. At the approaching show, for instance, contributions were expected from Amoy and other Chinese ports. The Municipality of Shanghai was even sending down its Superintendent of Parks and Open Spaces, so he heard, to be present at the show and it was quite possible that they might have exhibits from Mauritius and other distant colonies. The beneficial effect of these and other features of the flower show would be evident to all of them.

Rule 4 was—The affairs of the society shall be managed by a committee of nine members including the president, honorary secretary, honorary treasurer and six others to be elected annually at a general meeting to be held not later than May 1st in each year.

This was the usual arrangement in societies of this kind but it could easily be modified by members if necessary. When the society was formed it was possible, of course, for any member, who wished to do so to propose detailed arrangements for the increase of its usefulness. But from the proposed rules and the short explanation which he had given he thought they

would now be able to form an idea of the kind of society intended and of its possibilities.

The Governor invited any lady or gentleman who wished to make any remarks relative to the proposal to do so.

The General Officer Commanding, Major General Villiers Hatton, said he might assume, from the fact that nobody had stood up to speak, that he was expressing the unanimous wish of the meeting in moving that a Horticultural Society should be formed on the lines laid down by Mr. Dunn. He did not think he could add much to what Mr. Dunn had said, but there were one or two things which he thought would appeal to the Chinese element. They called their country the "Flowery Land." And certainly it was a flowery land, but they had only one street in Hongkong that was flowery. He thought we might grow many of the flowers ourselves. Most of them, he was told, came at present from Canton. Not only that but we might grow vegetables ourselves. In emphasising the necessity for this he mentioned that one of the Indian regiments stationed here had had more deaths in a few months than the whole garrison had in three years. The Indians apparently had their own ideas on the subject of vegetables. At any rate they suffered from dysentery, etc., and many had died, 24 during the last few months. He referred to the Chinese nursery gardeners being able to make a profit out of their plots, and in conclusion said he felt it was necessary for health's sake to have more vegetables grown. He hoped he was expressing the unanimous wish of the meeting that such a society should be formed (applause).

The Chief Justice said he had very much pleasure in seconding the proposal and did so with the greatest personal pleasure, because for many years he had been associated with horticulture in England and elsewhere. He thought such a society would be useful in creating an exchange between Mauritius, where the conditions were practically the same as here, and Hongkong.

The resolution was carried with unanimity.

The Governor proposed that Sir Francis Piggott be the first president of the Horticultural Society. (Applause.) He had made a study of gardening and, as in all other matters of which he had made a study, he had become a recognised expert in the matter (applause).

Mr. Barton seconded and the proposal was carried.

Dr. Ho Kai proposed a vote of thanks to His Excellency for presiding, and with the Governor's reply the proceedings terminated.

A formal meeting of the society was afterwards held under the presidency of Sir Francis Piggott when the rules were provisionally adopted; and Mr. Dunn was asked to act as secretary.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS.

H. E. The General Officer Commanding has made the following comments on the Commandant's report on the annual camp of 1905.

"This is a satisfactory report, for it shows progress all round and the attainment of greater proficiency. The good attendance is the outward and visible sign of the determination of all ranks to improve themselves."

The Commandant's report further stated that the actual average daily attendance in camp was better than in any previous year in spite of the fact that the period extended over 16 days instead of 10. The Commandant also reported that the discipline was excellent, and that there was a marked improvement in the drill. The gun drills were carried out with far greater rapidity, and the Engineer Company carried out their duties in a very efficient manner, in addition to their very useful work in lighting the camp. The Officers of the Corps gave an excellent example to the men and their average attendance daily was 12 out of 13. It is hoped that this same average will be arrived at by all ranks at future camps.

In appealing for recruits Major Pritchard points out that H.E. the General Officer Commanding has expressed himself satisfied with the progress that has been made that the Corps is now provided with up-to-date field guns and maxim guns and has the very latest army rifle

and equipment, and it is doubtful if any corps in the world can be said to be provided with more up-to-date equipment.

It is interesting to note that the new Headquarters should be ready in June next at the latest and will consist of a large drill hall, a billiard room and reading room for the men besides an officers' mess, sergeants' mess, offices, &c.

W. A. FITTON & CO.'S

MONTHLY MANILA MARKET REPORT.

Manila, P. I., Nov. 24th, 1905.

Gentlemen:—Our last circular, No. 48, was issued 27th ult., since when, we regret to state, there has not been the slightest improvement; our local stock market continues neglected and we have little business to report.

Transactions—Sales of Electricistas are reported, and we are given to understand La Concha Button Factory stock has been sold. Our stock market, however, is nearly as dead as one as ever existed.

Demand—As mentioned in our last circular, the existing condition of our local money market (usurious rates of interest) has about killed all dealings in legitimate and profitable businesses, and until money becomes easier, we can scarcely expect investors to dabble in stocks which pay only 8 to 12 per cent. per annum. Electricistas at P 35, Ice Co. at P 80, and Tramways (M E R & L Co.) at P 125, can be placed.

Meetings—The Varadero Co. hold their half yearly meeting this month. The Maritime Board of Directors at their half yearly meeting gave a good account of themselves, and it would appear as though stock of this concern should be higher.

New Companies—Nothing new about the Agricultural Bank, to which we made reference in our last; we assume the idea will fizzle out, much as the Bank is needed. The new Telephone Co. has been floated but we have no details handy.

General—Surely something will be done, and in the near future, to alleviate the existing state of affairs (and particularly as regards banking facilities) which is unprecedented. We were pleased to see such prompt measures were taken by the government as regards exportation of our local currency: there is altogether too little money here (anyhow, altogether too much money locked up), and it would have been the "last straw" had exportation of the pesos commenced; it would have proved a profitable business given the present price of silver in London. If our word carries any weight we would like to impress upon the authorities the necessity of carrying out our suggestions as to the crying need of common or garden Banking facilities, and to unrestricted immigration of Chinese coolies or, failing these, Japanese who are skilled agriculturalists. The local Banks cannot be blamed for their conservative action, given existing condition of affairs; they lack confidence. We are pleased to learn rice and sugar crops promise well, and from what we can gather, importations of former should be some 40 per cent under those of current year.—Yours faithfully

W. A. FITTON & Co.

NAVAL NEWS.

H.M.S. *Crecy* and *Bacchante* (cruisers) will replace the *Diadem* and *Andromeda* shortly on the China Station. These ships are of more powerful armament, carrying 9.2 guns, than the cruisers to be replaced.

The *Bramble* and *Britomart*, first class gun boats of 710 tons I. H. P. 900 N. D. (F. D. 1300) will be commissioned in March next in all probability. The use of destroyers for gunboat work is not very satisfactory. Hence the commissioning of these two reserve ships.

In naval circles little credence is given to the rumoured intention of placing the *Duke of Edinburgh*, *Dougal* and *Natal* on this station. We are informed on excellent authority that these fine ships are most unlikely to be transferred to the China station.

A SINOLOGUE'S WILL.

EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF MISSIONARY WEALTH.

A most extraordinary cross-examination was made at the Shanghai Supreme Court on Nov. 28, when the will of the late Dr. Joseph Edkins was submitted for probate "in solemn form."

Mr. J. H. Teesdale appeared for the executors and Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, with whom was Mr. H. Browett, appeared to oppose on behalf of the lawful widow of the deceased.

Mr. Wilkinson said the onus was upon the executors named in the will propounded to prove the testamentary capacity of the testator. The widow herself would not allege incapacity, but counsel would cross-examine on it himself.

J. H. Macoun, Acting Deputy Commissioner of I. M. Customs, said he had known the late Dr. Edkins since about 1890. In 1896 he and Mr. Björnson signed a paper for Dr. Edkins, after watching him sign it. Dr. Edkins told them it was not necessary for them to read it. The will produced was the paper they signed.

Cross-examined—Dr. Edkins was employed by the I. M. Customs as a translator. He wrote, made investigations with regard to the opium traffic, and Chinese coinage, and also translated a lot of Sanscrit. He also translated a lot of various works, etc.

Mr. Wilkinson:—What conclusion did Dr. Edkins arrive at about opium in China?—Witness: I don't know.

Did you ever read any of his works?—Yes, I have.

Would I be correct in saying with all due respect, that he was a pensioner of Sir Robert Hart?—No. He did good work on account of his knowledge of Chinese.

Did he ever discuss with you the Lost Tribes of Israel?—No.

Are you aware that he held the view that there were words in all languages that had a Chinese source?—He held the view that words in other languages had connections.

Dr. Edkins was married three times?—I do not know much of that.

You were not in Peking when he married my client?—No.

Were you ever at their house?—Yes.

Have you ever discussed money matters with Dr. Edkins?—Very seldom.

What was the discussion of money matters with Dr. Edkins?—I do not remember any particular occasion.

What was it?—Nothing of any importance. I should like to have any conversation of Dr. Edkins on money matters.—I do not remember any occasion that impressed itself on my mind.

Am not I right in describing Dr. Edkins, as regards any matter of business, as a simple-minded old man? Think before you answer. In a matter of, say, \$10, wouldn't you find him so?—No, I don't think I could call him "a simple-minded old man." He showed a good deal of commonsense in money matters.

Did he ever discuss with you how much he was worth?—No.

Did he ever discuss with you such a matter?—No.

Did you know how much he was worth?—No.

In November 1896 was Dr. Edkins quite well?—Yes.

Did you know how well he was off then?—No.

Did you know how much pay he was getting from the Customs? (Question pressed by counsel)—I think at that time about Tls 400 a month.

He was given double after that, was he not?—He was given an increase.

It was double practically?—I was away.

Between 1896 and the time of his death the Customs people practically doubled his salary. Is that true?—Yes.

If he was getting Tls. 400 then he was getting double when you came back?—Not double. It was an increase.

When you were there, at Dr. Edkins's, did you meet Mrs Edkins?—Yes.

I suppose they were on reasonable and affectionate terms?—Quite friendly.

He was a great many years older than she was?—Yes.

And you never heard of any quarrel?—Certainly not.

In general society Dr. Edkins was rather a dreamer?—No.

He was a sinologue?—Yes, he was.

Would I be correct in saying that he was fonder of his books than he was of his wife?—I cannot answer that.

His Lordship—What is the meaning of sinologue?

Mr. Wilkinson—Knowledge of Chinese books, learning, my lord.

Cross-examination continued—

Did he go home to his books or to his wife?—To his books and his wife.

But rather to his books?—Yes, maybe.

The general opinion of Dr. Edkins was that in business he was a child? Among yourselves, and business people generally in this place?—That is an extreme view.

Was he not regarded as a child in business? Tell us on your oath, would you have entrusted £10 to his laying out as a business man?—This is all a question of opinion.

I want your opinion; what you know from the people at the Customs and other people here? You lived with him and knew him well, and associated with him at the office.—He was not a business man, but he did his business in his own way.

A peculiar way?—His own.

Have you heard him discuss the question of the place of woman and wives in social life?—I do not remember.

Now you know that Dr. Edkins was a very respectable man, and a man who has done much good. We all know that, but was he not such a simple man in business, and in mind and morals, that he did not believe in the existence of evil? Was it not impossible to convince him of the existence of wrong?—I don't know that. I never discussed it with him.

Now from your knowledge of Dr. Edkins's household, have you any knowledge at all that Dr. Edkins attempted to manage his money affairs?—I don't know that he managed his money affairs.

You would not consent to, or put money into any concern of which Dr. Edkins had control and managed financially?—I never thought of such a contingency.

Would you put \$10 in any concern in which he had control?—There was never such a contingency.

He was the last man likely to do it?—He was the last man to do so as he was prevented by his engagement with the Customs from engaging in business.

You will not describe him as a man of business and you have never heard him described as that?—No.

Whenever you heard the question discussed he was not spoken of as a business man?—I have heard of him as a learned, kindly man.

As simple as a child in business matters?—I do not recollect him being spoken of as that.

The Rev. Ernest Box, of the London Missionary Society, deposed that since 1892 he had known Dr. Edkins. At that time he came from Peking to Shanghai. Witness was one of the executors of the will. Witness had been connected very closely with Dr. Edkins in various work, and socially. During the last few years the deceased doctor had met witness from week to week and during the last three or four years he had taken a meal at witness's house practically every Sunday. Dr. Edkins died on the 23rd of April this year. After he had died Mr. George Edkins went to witness's house and informed him that in searching Dr. Edkins's papers he had found an envelope with enclosures. Witness believed it was in Mrs. Edkins' charge. There was an envelope with an enclosure, but the will was found at the Hongkong Bank. After that a very careful search was made to see if there was another will but none was found.

Mr. Teesdale—I wish you to tell us what your opinion is as to Dr. Edkins's mental capacity. You heard the questions of my learned friend and the replies.

Witness—Such a thought as the mental incapacity of Dr. Edkins never entered my mind. I served with him on a large number of committees, I had many conversations with him from time to time covering a wide range of subjects, and I always found I was sitting at the feet of a master; he was so thoroughly well-informed on scholarly questions. He was President of the Chinese Tract Society for

many years up to his death; he was also on the Committee of the Royal Asiatic Society, of the Diffusion Society, the British and Foreign Bible Society, and I believe several others. At the time of his death he was writing two works, one for the I. M. Customs, on Banking—which has just been published, since his death, by the Customs—and the other is now being put through the press and is on the question of some Old Testament subject not yet published. I and all my friends who have been associated with the late Dr. Edkins have no hesitation in speaking with regard to his state of mind and capacity; indeed I must express the warm feeling of indignation that such a question has been raised.

Did he believe or not in the existence of evil?—He decidedly believed in the existence of evil. He was a man who had great faith in human nature and was decidedly optimistic, and not pessimistic, but he never expressed any such views as has been suggested.

Have you ever heard the general opinion expressed that Dr. Edkins was a child in business?—He was a man who had no guile (Mr. Wilkinson: Quite so.) and in business matters he often showed shrewd common sense.

Cross-examination—

You said that Dr. Edkins was a man who had no guile. I may at once say about that, that I also knew Dr. Edkins. In saying that, and that he was optimistic, am I not right in saying that he carried that a great deal further than you, with your practical knowledge of the world, can go with him?—Yes, he did so, but he did not carry it to such an extent as is suggested.

You are a missionary?—Yes. Are you implying that a missionary is not a practical man?

No, but implying that a missionary is likely to look upon human nature in a different light, a kinder light.—I am a business man, too. I am the business manager of the London Missionary Society. Dr. Edkins lived with his books and not only with his books for he did Customs work as well. He was a scholar.

The mission which you have the practical management of is the one mentioned in the will?—Yes.

As to his belief in human nature, perhaps you misunderstand me. He carried his power of belief in human nature to such an extent that it was very hard to convince him sometimes of the practical facts of life. You know occasions yourself when it was hard to convince him?—He had great faith in human nature.

He wrote a book on opium?—Yes.

He was against opium?—Yes.

You have read his book on opium?—No.

No. Have you read any of his books?—Yes, two.

His book on the Lost Tribes of Israel?—He never wrote a book on the Lost Tribes of Israel.

You know enough about that book on opium to know whether he dealt with the question of the Chinese growing opium themselves?—I do not know. He regarded it as an evil.

You said you considered you were "sitting at the feet of a master." In what sort of subjects?—On matters concerning China. They cover a wide range, history, philosophy, the religions of China. He was a sinologue. Evolution was another favourite subject of his; he was specially interested in higher criticism.

And he believed in the verbal inspiration of the Bible. I believe word for word?—I believe he did not.

You spoke of his being on these various committees. He did not have much time for home life?—I believe he had a good deal of time there. Frequently I dined with him, and visited him in his study.

Can you mention any occasion when you went to his house, except meal-times, that you found him anywhere but in his study?—I went to him usually in the afternoon. He went into his study usually in the morning and, I believe, after he went home from the Customs, when he had no business to attend to at a committee, he studied there, and, I believe that he had the afternoons for social—

His Lordship—You don't know.

Counsel—When there was not a fixed occasion you have no doubt that he was in his study?—He was a student. I have to be "dragged" out of my study.

His Lordship—That is not an indication of insanity.

Mr. Wilkinson—No, my Lord. Dr. Edkins was a friend of mine, if I might be allowed to call him such, but I want to prove he was not business-like and had little social life. Cross-examination continued—

Mrs. Edkins of course ran the house?—I was placed a short time ago in the peculiar position of knowing by Dr. Edkins, but until that time I knew nothing of his private affairs.

In the papers of the deceased did you find any reference to financial transactions?—Yes.

Notes?—Notes of his investments.

Stray notes?—They were in sequence in a book.

Did you find at the time among his papers any documents or anything indicating how much money he had?—Mr. George Edkins told me that I was a trustee, and he told me that he estimated there was about £10,000 in investments.

You have no written instructions by the deceased as to what he meant by educational institutions, in the centre of China under the London Missionary Society?—Years ago he spoke about an institution which he wished to found in Shanghai and he informed me that he had bought a piece of land for that object.

When was that?—It was in 1891 that I returned and it was a little after that.

But Dr. Edkins used to refer to that piece of ground as Mrs. Edkins's garden?—Yes.

Were you aware that she spent money on it?—By Mr. Edkins's orders.

Did you know what Dr. Edkins wished to do with that ground?—He wished to build a college there.

For the Chinese?—I cannot say.

That would necessitate the spending of some money?—Naturally.

You must have met Mrs. Edkins often?—Yes.

When you met Mrs. Edkins there, when the doctor was not in the study, they were on affectionate terms?—I suppose so.

Was he?—Yes.

Did you know of any reason why he should leave her badly off?—I ought to say that when Mr. George Edkins was here he spoke to me of matters that happened many years ago. That was in confidence. In my own knowledge I knew nothing that there was a reason for.

Am I not right in saying that when the will was found and you found the amount of the estate you were, apart naturally from the nice idea of the recognition of the London Mission, as a good and just man shocked and surprised at that will?—Decidedly not shocked. It surprised me.

I suppose when you weighed the parties' merits, Mrs. Edkins's and the London Missionary Society?—To be shocked would be for a moral reason. I was surprised.

Didn't you search to see if Dr. Edkins left a more just will?—A more just will! Dr. Edkins knew whether his will was just or not. I cannot offer any opinion on it.

You are not like the doctor, try to think the best?—I try to.

Did you think there might be another will?—I thought there might be.

Mr. Wilkinson (to the Judge)—If I prove he is not a man of business, your Lordship will hold he is a man who can make a will.

His Lordship—Certainly. You have to prove insanity.

Mr. Wilkinson quoted the case of Arnold v. Baker. It was a matter which was hard upon the widow.

His Lordship—That has nothing to do with me. I may have my own opinion on that subject.

Mr. Wilkinson—Your Lordship understands why I appear to cross-examine on the subject of this enthusiasm of a man for a mission, and leaving the residue for education? I say that he was not aware at the date of his death of the state of his affairs. In his will he says: "If the estate should prove too small . . . to be reduced proportionately."

His Lordship said:—The reason why the parties have come into Court is that the execution of this will was informal. It was written by Dr. Edkins and in his own handwriting and undoubtedly the parties were entitled to come before the Court to ask it solemnly to say that the requirements of due execution had been

fulfilled. That has been proved by Mr. Macoun and one witness, and it is no longer contested. With regard to the rest of the cross-examination I am absolutely at a loss to understand the object of it; even if the answers were more favourable than they were they would not show incapacity. Mr. Wilkinson informs me that his client does not dispute the mental capacity of the testator. Dr. Edkins might have been an unbusiness-like man; he might not have been a man who was clever in investing his money, or looking after the finances of societies, but that has nothing to do with it; the question is whether he had a reasonable idea of what he was doing and whom he was intending to benefit when he made this will, and of that there seems little doubt. The will was made in 1896, when he had considerably less money than he had when he died, although during all those years he did not see fit to alter it; under any circumstances supposing there was latterly a lack of testamentary capacity—though I do not think for a moment that that was so—the question is whether he was able to make the will in 1896. I have no doubt that he was able to do so. As to the question of costs, in view of the condition of the will, the absence of the testimonium clause, and the absence of one of the witnesses from China, I think that the proceedings calling upon the executors to prove the will in solemn form were properly taken. Having gone so far as that it merely remained for them to come into Court as soon as possible after the arrival of Mr. Macoun; this was done, and as the costs of the latter part are not very considerable, it would be difficult to differentiate between them, and under all the circumstances I think I may order costs to be paid out of the estate.

CORRESPONDENCE

"JAPANESE TYPES."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Having received from you Mrs. Patton's long letter referring to my criticism of "Japanese Types," and your suggestion that I should reconsider the matter, I beg to answer as follows the important points of her explanation.

Mrs. Patton thinks that a knowledge of the circumstances attending the publication of the work should modify my judgment. She explains that the artist is a young Eurasian girl, entirely self taught, who has never had a lesson in figure drawing in her life, who is hoping to supplement her income by utilizing her facility with the pencil.—This confirms my judgment of her work, of which I wrote (Nov. 18): "while remarkably correct in local detail, and giving a very truthful and vivid impression of the people drawn, the drawing is distinctly amateurish in execution." I should naturally have wished to express the same thing more gently had I known there were special claims to sympathy; but there was nothing in the book to inform me that it was not to be judged by ordinary standards.

Mrs. Patton says that it is hoped to give the young lady the opportunity of studying drawing properly, especially in anatomy; and I would like to encourage this idea. I wrote: "At first one is disposed to marvel at the strange difference between the artist's eye and hand, until it dawns upon us that for the happy characterisation and scrupulous detail the artist has been assisted by the camera." This discrepancy is now explained by Mrs. Patton's explanation, and I need not say I unreservedly withdraw my hypothesis (not allegation) that the aid of the camera had been invoked. I venture to add my opinion that when the artist's gifted eye gains the co-operation of a properly trained hand that the army of art will be enriched by a valuable recruit. I am only surprised that Mrs. Patton should have overlooked (knowing the circumstances) what a remarkably encouraging criticism mine was. With the exception of the withdrawal of the camera hypothesis (I used the words "presume" and "seem") the artist has reason to wish my comments to stand unchanged; and to be proud that her work should have evoked them.

May I further suggest that, if the young lady is to take up the study for which she has

undoubted talent, she should be warned against the spirit which prompted her remark: "What did very well for a tea-cloth would never do for a book." Art (like criticism) demands the truth that is in us. Nothing "does very well" except the best we can do. This artist can do better than "Japanese Types."

Mrs. Patton, eager to prove my hypothesis wrong, refers to her friend's inability to copy correctly. This again shews how right I was in noting the different power of eye and hand. Mrs. Patton twice uses the word "facile" with reference to the hand that wielded the pencil whereas it is only facility that is needed to enable her to do justice to her artistic perceptions.

I saw one criticism of the book before it came to me for review, and I remember that my unknown confrère spoke of its "perfect drawing." Mrs. Patton says that the *Daily Press* was the only journal to take a different view, a testimonial, sir, which I am sure you will now appreciate, as, I am sure Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, the publishers, and the artist herself, have already done. If a young artist, admittedly untrained, is unanimously informed by an intelligent (?) press that her work is perfect, it is a kindness to prevent the inevitable result of such flattery. In this case, Mrs. Patton's explanation, and my own judgment of the immanent quality of her work, lead me to think that the artist is not thus to be restrained from advancing to the higher plane reserved for those with her gifts. I fear that Mrs. Patton, from her letter, is not qualified to give her friend the best advice on the making of pictures; and she has certainly missed the moral of my criticism.—I am, sir,

YOUR REVIEWER.

A SINOLOGUE'S "SURPRISING REQUEST."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong 5th December, 1905.

DEAR SIR,—Permit me, through you, to suggest to the London Missionary Society that if it cannot bring itself to hand over to the widow of the late Dr. Edkins the principal sum constituting his "surprising bequest" to the Society it should at least devote the interest on the monies bequeathed to the Society to the support of the testator's widow, who will, as the result of this bequest to the London Missionary Society, be left in poverty. If this wealthy and professedly Christian Society does as I suggest it will free itself to some extent from the obloquy which it cannot but entail by the acceptance of a bequest made in defiance of the moral obligation of a husband to provide adequately for the support of his wife after his death.

A CHRISTIAN.

OVERCROWDING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Some time ago you published in your columns a report, on the question of "Resumption of Insanitary Properties," by H. E. the Governor, and a reply from the Secretary of State relative to the manner in which the subject should in future be dealt with. When the work is resumed, I would like to suggest that the first district demanding attention is that block in the heart of China-town which is bounded by Lascar Row, Holliwood Road, Ahoeng Lane and Possession Street. This neighbourhood is shockingly overcrowded with a population which, because of its manner of life, loves darkness rather than light. The buildings occupied by this community are every one of them old, some very old: dark of entrance, damp and evil-smelling through their passages and on most of their floors, for there is little chance of any atmosphere, however fresh it may be, combating the state of excessive overcrowding which at times, during the cold weather, is bound to exist. All of these houses are filled with partitions protected by smoke begrimed hangings or curtains, and form a magnificent incubating laboratory for the plague bacillus which generally begins its deadly work early in the Spring.

Perhaps one of the first efforts which H. E. might make is the inspection of the neighbourhood above described, and should it not appear

feasible to carry out a complete renewal of the properties named, it might at least be possible to have the houses changed in character by removing their inmates to some more healthy and pleasant locality such as exists in the neighbourhood further west in Queen's Road and Witty Street.—Yours, &c.

SPECTATOR.

HONGKONG'S EMINENCE CONTESTED.

A PORT OF "NO GREAT IMPORTANCE."

The *Sydney Morning Herald* says that it is a popular fallacy to regard Hongkong as a port of any great importance at all. A correspondent (Mr. F. Kinghy) addressed our Australian contemporary as follows:—

"Sir,—In your issue of the 21st you state that Sydney is the eleventh port of the world. I have heard this statement called in question several times, and the statement made that Hongkong should come in somewhere about fourth. Will you kindly state in your commercial columns your opinion on the above point, and your reason for omitting Hongkong if above is correct. Also you would confer a favour on a good many of us by answering the following query:—Is it usual when stating the status of a port to take the value of imports and exports, or the tonnage of ships entering and clearing?"

The *Sydney Herald* replied:—

"Hongkong is not the fourth port of the world, or indeed a port of any great importance at all. This is one of many popular fallacies. There are no official trade statistics kept in Hongkong, as there are no Customs duties levied there. The Statesman's Year Book, however, estimates the total trade at 6 millions sterling, of which the imports are reckoned as 4 millions, and the exports as 2 millions. The trade of the port of Sydney is over 40 millions sterling, or nearly 7 times that of the port of Hongkong. The trade of Brisbane and Wellington (N.Z.) is about on a par with that of Hongkong. The tonnage, which enters the port of Hongkong is certainly very large, aggregating 10,860,000 tons in 1903, whereas the aggregate tonnage that both entered and cleared at Sydney during the same year was only 5,934,411 tons. Sydney, however, was not visited by 15,803 Chinese junks. There is no doubt that the true measure of the relative importance of different ports is the volume of trade, not the number of tons of shipping that it takes to do the trade. No one would urge that the port of Melbourne is more important than the port of Sydney, because of the following comparison:—

| | Tonnage entered and cleared. | Total Trade. |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|
| | Tons. | £ |

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Sydney | 5,934,411 | 41,607,263 |
| Melbourne | 6,417,290 | 32,584,784 |

"The figures for 1903 are here taken, these being the latest official returns available."

"Another correspondent remarks on the omission of Hongkong among the great ports of the world."

This aroused still another champion of Hongkong (Mr. James Maher, of Bowden Bros & Co., Ltd.) who wrote:—

"The 'popular fallacy' with regard to Hongkong appears to have some foundation. I quote the statistics issued from the Office of the *Hongkong Daily Press*:—'Hongkong is a free port and there is no complete official return of imports and exports compiled, but the value of its trade is estimated at £50,000,000 per annum.'

"During the year 1903 a total of 24,819 vessels, of 10,959,293 tons entered, and 24,966 vessels, of 10,944,055 tons cleared with cargoes. There also entered in ballast 5,615 vessels of 1,221,102 tons, and 5,436 vessels of 1,259,127 tons cleared in ballast."

"The 'Chinese junks' you speak of do not appear to be included at all—not even seagoing junks—as the Chinese carried trade amounted in all to some half million tons only, carried in some 700 vessels, obviously Chinese owned steamers. The traffic was much greater last year owing to the war. I had the statement from excellent authorities, when in Hongkong, that their tonnage figures were just ahead of London and the greatest in the world, for that

year. I cannot give this as an absolute fact, however. Moreover, comparison of statistical figures is often misleading—owing perhaps to different basis of working. It is recognised that the trade of Hongkong is small in proportion to the traffic in and out, as so many vessels merely call in."

We may add that Mr. Maher might have given the tonnage pre-eminence as an absolute fact, for our recently published figures were taken from Board of Trade Blue-book No. 297 (Aug. '05).

NEGOTIATION WITH CHINA THREE CENTURIES AGO.

At the present moment, when such an important stage has been reached in the relations between China, Korea, and Japan, it is interesting to turn back to the negotiations which took place between the three countries in the closing years of the sixteenth century, and note the position occupied by each Power. Then, as now, a great war had been waged, for which the relations of Korea to her neighbours had provided the necessary excuse. Hideyoshi having long cherished designs upon China, remarked to the Korean envoys *apropos* of the death of the infant son born to him in his old age, "When I reflect that the life of man is less than one hundred years, why should I spend my days in sorrow for one thing only? I will assemble a mighty host, and, invading the country of the great Ming, I will fill with the hoar-frost from my sword the whole sky over the four hundred provinces. Should I carry out this purpose, I hope that Korea will be my vanguard. Let her not fail to do so, for my friendship with your honourable country depends solely on your conduct when I lead my army against China." In those days it was China who was regarded as the enemy. Russia was unknown, for the earliest explorer had not yet ventured across the trackless wastes which separated the country of the Muscovites from the Pacific shores. Korea, loyal to China, did not see why a way should be afforded the islanders with which to attack her suzerain, and so the King of Korea replied: "What talk is this of our joining you against China? From the earliest times we have followed law and right. From within and from without, all lands are subject to China. . . . The relations which have subsisted between us are those of parent and child. This you well know. Can we desert both Emperor and parent and join with you?" Needless to say, the answer did not satisfy Hideyoshi, who before many years had passed launched a mighty army against Korea, which, uniformly successful at first eventually found its position seriously threatened by the superiority of the Koreans at sea, who effectually cut the Japanese communications, and the growth of a spirit of resistance among the Korea country people, who began to inflict serious damage upon the Japanese by a guerilla warfare. The Japanese would probably have been annihilated or starved out had the Koreans not been led to rely less on their own efforts than on those of the Chinese army sent to their assistance.

After the failure of his first attempt Hideyoshi was willing to make peace if China would grant certain concessions, among which is the curiously modern demand that a port, Ningpo, should be opened to trade. Owing to the "diplomacy" of a Japanese envoy named Konishi Hida no Kami, the Chinese Court appears to have obtained the idea that Hideyoshi was anxious to make his submission. The Koreans were therefore told that no further assistance would be afforded them by China, and they reluctantly consented to make peace at a moment when victory seemed to be in their own hands. Konishi, who had meanwhile been detained in Lisotung, was now permitted to proceed to Peking where he gave his solemn adhesion to the three articles of peace—China to grant investiture to Hideyoshi as King of Japan; all Japanese to leave Korea; the Japanese never again to invade the peninsula. The last two items curiously recall the conditions of the Treaty of Peace recently negotiated between Russia and Japan, by which Russia agrees to evacuate Manchuria.

Eventually the Korean Government appointed an ambassador to accompany the Chinese envoy on his visit to Japan to invest Hideyoshi as King. All this time Hideyoshi had been kept quite ignorant of the steps taken by Konishi to bring about peace, and he received the crown and robe presented to him very graciously. His disgust when he called two learned priests to explain the patent of investiture may be imagined when its contents are considered. Konishi had first had a private interview with the priests, and urged them to modify the language of the document, but they appear to have declined, for Hideyoshi was faithfully placed in possession of its terms. The document is too long to give here in full, but its general purport may be gathered from the following paragraph:—

You, Toyotomi Taira Hideyoshi, having established an Island Kingdom and knowing the reverence due to the Central Land, sent to the west an envoy, and with gladness and affection offered your allegiance. On the north you knocked at the barrier of ten thousand *li*, and earnestly requested to be admitted within our dominions. Your mind is already confirmed in reverent submissiveness. How can we grudge our favour to such great meekness? We do therefore specially invest you with the dignity of King of Japan, and to that intent issue that our commission. Treasure it up carefully. Over the sea we send you a crown and robe, so that you may follow our ancient custom as respects dress. Faithfully defend the frontier of the empire; let it be your duty to act worthily of your position as our minister; practice moderation and self-restraint; cherish gratitude for the Imperial favour so bountifully bestowed upon you; change not your fidelity; be humbly guided by our admonitions; continue always to follow our instructions. Respect this!

But the letter of instructions with which the patent of investiture was accompanied was still more pronounced in its terms, for in it Hideyoshi was most severely lectured for his past conduct. Here is an extract:—

"You, Taira Hideyoshi of Japan, lately made war on Korea, a country which for two hundred years has been tributary to this Empire. The Koreans having appealed to us in their distress, our indignation flamed forth, and we dispatched a body of troops to their assistance. But it was against our real wishes to resort to bloodshed, and when your general Toyotomi Yukinaga sent his messenger Fujiwara Yukiyasu (Konishi Hida no Kami) to explain the reason of your sending an expedition and making war, viz., that it arose in the first place from your desire to request investiture from this Empire, that you had asked Korea to prefer this petition on your behalf but that that country had thrown obstacles in the way, and would not consent to communicate to us your wishes. This you said had excited your opposition and was the cause of troubling the Celestial troops. You showed regret for your error, and retired, giving up the royal capital of Korea and sending back the captured princes and grandees. You also presented a respectful memorial embodying the above mentioned request."

After recapitulating at length the facts of the late war as they appeared to China, the instructions thus concluded:—

"Respectfully follow our commands; let there be no deviation from them. Severe is the glance of Heaven: resplendently bright are the Royal precepts. Respect this!"

Hideyoshi's rage was unbounded. Konishi narrowly escaped losing his head, and the Korean and Chinese envoys were for a time in considerable danger. The war in due course was resumed, but Hideyoshi never attained his object of invading the country of the great Ming, as he failed with his efforts to subdue the peninsular kingdom which stood in his way.

It is interesting to recall this historical incident and compare the situation with the relations China, Korea, and Japan bear to each other after the passing of three centuries. Japan, with a population of forty millions, now in effect decides the policy of the three hundred millions of China and Korea. And when is recalled that little change took place in the relations of the three Powers for the space of more than two centuries

and a half, it is evident that Japan has obtained her preponderating influence in the Far East not so much by certain innate qualities, about which we hear so much at the present day, but by a Revolution at a fortuitous moment which enabled the progressive forces to come into play and Japan to avail herself of the new knowledge of the West.—*Japan Chronicle*.

HOW TO "DO" CHINA THOUGH IN HONGKONG.

John Chinaman at Home, by the Rev. E. J. HARDY, author of "*How to be happy though Married*" London: T. Fisher Unwin. Hongkong: Kelly & Walsh, Ltd. 4s.

The Rev. Mr. Hardy says he came to China with the hope of gaining distinction by *not* writing a book about it. This would have been wittier if it had been true. It is very evident that the author lost no chance of noting the thousand and one little things of everyday that we "see but do not observe" here, that he was a diligent collector of scraps of knowledge, chiefly anecdotal and humorous, and that, in short, if he did actually mean to refrain from writing of what he saw, he soon changed his mind. We may as well say, before coming to the critical part of our work, that we are glad he did. His book is a bargain at four shillings, crammed with good things. But we hope readers will not take all they find in it for gospel. The author has the habit, excusable in anyone not wearing his cloth, of humorous exaggeration, and even of fibbing to score a point.

The first chapter is about Hongkong, which he dubs "a sort of cosmopolitan Clapham Junction." Every funny story that was told him at the Mess table (do army chaplains sit at Mess?), he seems to have jotted down at once, with the result that we meet some very old friends. He harps upon Hongkong's love of scandal, and gives the impression that a reputation is torn to shreds every time a tram climbs the Peak. He says: "If you live on the Peak your clothes rot; if you live below, you rot. True, some escape with their lives, but they will probably have lost first their teeth, then their hearing, and then their minds." That, we hope, is humorous exaggeration. "A lady observed a man reading Chinese characters on the front of a silver belt which she was wearing. 'You understand the language' she said, 'so do tell me the literal meaning of these characters. I am told they stand for happiness.' With shy hesitation the Chinese scholar answered, 'They may mean that indirectly, but the literal translation of what is on the clasp of your belt is: 'Distended with food.' That is a welcome meeting with an old friend. So is the statement that 'houses, servants, and food cost about double what they did a dozen years ago.' The happy style of the author is typified in the remark that 'The Governor, the two Admirals, the General, and the Chief Justice lead society, and the Bishop blesses their doings as far as he conscientiously can.' Then follows the stale talk of the social distinction between the Services and Commerce, the 'dollar-lackers' and the 'dollar-snatchers.' There is, we are happy to say, a society that neither of those nick-names fits, and it is the snobs who have the keenest nose for snobbery. (Honestly, that was not meant for the author.) One of his humorous exaggerations is that 'age and awkwardness at games are considered here unpardonable sins.' The author took trips as occasion offered to Canton, Macao, Shanghai, and even Tientsin and Peking, and the result is a collection of observations and traveller's tales such as we all put into letters Home, only, ours, of course, are not so wittily written. It seems to us rather stupid to say of Shanghai that 'it is the Paris of China, and many young men are ruined by its attractions,' or that it is a place distinguished by 'the vices of foreigners.' Also, 'Europeans pride themselves on stupidly ignoring old Shanghai, and think it is 'bad form' to visit it.' We heard nothing about bad form, but much about bad smells. Except for those who 'want to say I've seen it, you know,' or those who are going to write a book, there is little to be gained by penetrating native

Shanghai, native Amoy, or native Canton. We are glad to see that the author has found, and acknowledged, the usefulness of the *Hongkong Daily Press*. Every one of his closely printed 332 pages has its anecdote or humorous remark, so that we could go on quoting indefinitely. If he doesn't happen to have a story rightly belonging to China, the author is never at a loss. He takes from his teeming repertory a suitable one belonging to some other place and makes it fit. Frequently it is prefaced by the formula "A friend of mine," which seems shockingly mendacious when we recognise the happening as having occurred to, or been told by, a friend of ours. Sometimes, when this formula is used, we think how true it is that history repeats itself, for the story is in the *Gesta Romanorum*! The Hongkong Police news of the last twelve months is even drawn upon for some illustrations. Mr. Hardy claims the story of the well-labelled cabin trunk (from which a too industrious servant scraped all the travel trophies in which the owner took pride) as happening to a friend of his. What in a layman is but a figure of speech seems from a parson rank tarradiddle. Also we would remonstrate on the rev. gentleman's objection to humour in others. He heard a Hongkong man speak of coolie labour as "rice-power," and says it seemed to him a brutal way of speaking of man made in the image of God. Hoity-toity, and humbug too, for he himself seems brutal in the comment (page 235) that "the fee of an executioner is only fifty cents per head, but he does not do badly at that, for business is generally pretty brisk!" Fancy a parson talking of the mutilation of the image, etc., as a brisk business. In this chapter he pretends to be shocked at "the globe-trotters who can take snapshots of such scenes" (Chinese punishments) and he illustrates the very chapter with a grim photograph of three partially strangled men. ("Jail-birds in cages"—even a pun, you see.) He makes a remark which we have tried to impress upon the faddists, and that is that "Eastern women do not desire the liberty that is attaining alarming proportions in the West" and that China is a hen-pecked country as it is. In elaborating the old theme of the topsy-turvydom of China, the author mentions the Oriental habit of smiling where we would look sorry or sad, but later he thinks Chinese have no nerves because a wounded Chinaman was smiling "as if it were a joke." If he means seriously that Chinese laughed when in trouble, then his wounded friend was not treating his mishap as a joke. This book is written for outsiders, so it ought to be understood that they should not take the "information" au grand sérieux. He illustrates the impudence of the Chinese thief with the mouldy chestnut about the man who stole the Police Court clock while the Court was in session; and Singapore is claiming that now. It is a mercy he didn't work in the formula of "a friend of mine." He would have done better to keep off the Religions of China, unless prepared to study them. Could anything be more monstrously unjust than his summing up that "Taoism is their gambling interest in chance and luck"? He tells us that to make sure of reaching the regions of the blest, the Chinaman—every Chinaman—takes passage by all three of the religious routes—evidently under the impression that China has only Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism! And then this, which the poor missionaries at Linchow discovered to be a ghastly mistake: "If a missionary is sarcastic about the idols after the manner of Elijah and the writer of the 115th Psalm, their worshippers are not offended, but rather pleased because they do not love the idols but only fear them." In the inevitable chapter on missionaries, he refers to the "ignorant abuse" of these people, although he himself was in no better position to champion them than are some of those who criticise them. He does not appear to have thought it out both ways to admit that "were missionaries cockroaches they could not have been more scorned than they were on board the ship" that brought him to Hongkong. Even the captain, who seemed a "good and sensible man," became mad when he spoke of them. And Mr. Hardy goes on to admit that some missionaries are "idiots," others "untrained Americans" (of course all the bad

ones are either foreigners or Catholics), that female "specimens" are often "anaemic, unlady-like, partially deformed." In the course of this chapter, which is really more against than for, he can think of only two excuses for their presence—their advantage as commercial advance agents (men of commerce seem strangely ungrateful) and "the Lord's marching orders," which had reference to highways and byways in the disciples' own country. He says they modify prejudices: others say they augment them. "When urged to kill missionaries," he says, "Chinese mobs do so with regret," which irresistibly reminds us of Isaac Walton's method of impaling a worm. After pleasing us by his previous reproof of those who want to transform Oriental women into European models, he now turns round and urges that the missionaries deserve credit for having done most to elevate the women! He tells us that "for unmarried missionary girls to travel about, either alone or in charge of a male missionary, shocks at first Chinese notions of morality." He says that that idea soon dies, but we doubt it. On page 36 we are actually asked to believe that whatever may be said of Roman Catholics, (again the cloven hoof), Protestant missionaries, if killed, do not want any notice to be taken of it, no gunboats, etc.; as "they know that if St. Paul and the other first apostles had been protected by gunboats we would not be Christians now!" It is amusing to note his innocent joy in the progress being made "They come over in families," he says, not thinking that conversions en bloc must be of somewhat doubtful value. And "even the bad and irreligious lives of nominal Christians in the Far East cannot stop the progress of mission work," which is, we may add, the manufacture of nominal Christians. It is hard work. "Think for instance of the difficulty of explaining to an ancestor-worshipper such words as, 'If any man come to Me and hate not his father, he cannot be My disciple. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father.' If they have actually been trying to explain that, we do not wonder there have been so many martyrs. That 'missionaries are not such fools as they look' is not a comforting saying, we imagine, for his friends! One more quotation, and then perhaps enough. "A mandarin, after visiting a missionary known to me, questioned the missionary's house-boy about his master's habits, as though he were a wild beast. 'What does he eat?' 'How is it cooked?' 'When does he go out?' and so on." We can see or hear the giggles with which this is meant to be read; but is not this book an effort to answer identical questions (as if they were wild beasts) by a gentleman who boasts that "by going round shaking his own hands, Chinese fashion, and showing his gold filled tooth," he had the entree everywhere? He winds up by telling how Chinese used to watch a regimental goat accompanying the Royal Welsh Regiment to church, and says that "with far less to go upon, a western globe-trotter would dub the Chinese goat-worshippers." With more to go upon, he has succeeded in crowding a good deal of misinformation into this very readable, entertaining, brightly-written and well-illustrated book, which we should recommend more unreservedly if it had plainly printed on its outer cover the necessary words: "Cum grano salis."

TENDER ASHORE NEAR APO ISLAND.

At nine o'clock on the evening of the 5th instant, as Captain Arthur of the s.s. *Foo Shing* was passing Apo Island, he was signalled by rocket. Coming to about a mile South of the Island, he spoke the tug *Robert K.* which was engaged in towing the lighthouse tender *Tablas* off the reef on the S. E. end of the Island. Those on the tug communicated their wish to send a letter to Manila, but as the *Foo Shing* was bound for Hongkong, and as the tug refused any offer of assistance, Captain Arthur decided to proceed on his voyage. The master of the tug said he hoped to get the *Tablas* off on the next high tide, which was 4 a.m. on the following morning.

HONGKONG REGATTA.

The Hongkong Regatta, held on Dec. 9th at Aberdeen, was eminently successful. It could not well have been otherwise considering the patronage under which it was conducted, the experienced officials who managed it, and the enthusiasm of the members and the keenness of the competitors who came forward. With such conditions, it only required weather favourable for a good exhibition of sport and a large attendance of the public, and happily that was forthcoming. Undoubtedly one factor in the popularity of Saturday's proceedings was the fact that the day had been proclaimed a public holiday, and this contributed to the unusually large number of sightseers.

Patrons:—H.E. The Governor, Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., H.E. Admiral Sir Gerard Noel, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., H.E. Major-General Villiers-Hatton, C.B.

Stewards:—Hon. Capt. L. A. Barnes-Lawrence, Sir H. S. Berkeley, Kt., Hon. Sir C. P. Chater, Kt., C.M.G., Colonel Darling, R.A., A. Denison, Esq., Lt.-Colonel H. G. Pitton, D.S.O., Sir F. Pigott, Kt., H. E. Pollock, Esq., K.C., E. H. Sharp, Esq., K.C., H. Skott, Esq., J. R. M. Smith, Esq., A. Turner, Esq., Commodore H. P. Williams, R.N.

Committee of Management:—Hon. Mr. Gerstern Stewart, Chairman, Lieut. C. A. Cooper, R.E., E. W. Mitchell, Esq., G. A. Caldwell, Esq., C. H. Grace, Esq., O. H. Gale, Esq., F. Lammert, Esq., A. B. Rouse, Esq., Hon. Treas., F. W. Warre, Esq., Hon. Sec.,

Umpires:—C. E. H. Beavis, Esq., C. H. Grace, Esq., W. H. Potts, Esq.

Judges:—E. W. Mitchell, Esq., H. P. White, Esq., Lt. C. W. Beckwith, R.N.

The day broke dull and hazy, with but little wind, and there was every prospect of a smooth sea for the interesting series of rowing races. About half an hour before the first event, the wind freshened considerably with the result that the water became more turbulent. Indeed so choppy was the sea beyond the opposite island that it was deemed advisable to alter the course for the several races where the distance to be covered was a mile. Accordingly they started at the half mile mark and finished half a mile further down the channel. In this way everything passed off satisfactorily, and as sunshine brightened the surroundings in the afternoon the visitors enjoyed to the full the beautiful and interesting sights.

As before the course was from the Aberdeen Docks in the Hongkong direction, a mile and half mile being measured off. This stretch of water was very suitable for all the events, with the exception perhaps of that for the men-of-war gigs and whalers, when the 13 boats which competed had not enough room. For the others the course was admirable.

The arrangements for the management of the regatta, were of the most adequate description. The Dock Company placed their premises at the disposal of the committee and thus enabled a suitable enclosure to be marked off for the events on shore. At the docks and connected with a gangway was the flagship *San Cheung*, gay with bunting. Here most of the spectators took up positions from which to view the races. The umpire and starters attended to their important duties from No. 3 Cosmopolitan Dock Launch, while the judges were accommodated opposite the docks. Instructions had been given for launches to sail at half speed thus avoiding the backwash which would have been uncomfortable for the light boats of the competitors, but unfortunately sampans got in the way during one or two races.

At Aberdeen the occasion was marked by a brave show of steamers and bunting. The two German vessels in the docks, the *Andrée Rickmers* and the *Vorwärts*, dressed ship, while other vessels in the harbour contributed to the display of colour.

In the neighbourhood of the flagship was a great muster of most diversified craft. Graceful sailing yachts, grimy launches, dainty little motor boats were moored side by side, but the vessel to create the most interest by its appearance was a Star Ferry launch, which brought a large party.

The event was patronised by a distinguished assembly as well as by the populace. His

Excellency, the Governor, accompanied by Captain Arbuthnot Leslie and Captain Smith, A.D.C's, and Mr. R. A. Ponsonby, arrived before noon with a party which included Sir Francis and Lady Piggott, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Gershom Stewart, Miss Hancock, Misses Cave Thomas, and Mr. Murray Stewart. Shortly afterwards the launch *Christine*, placed at their disposal by Sir Paul Chater, brought Lady Noel and party, while Admiral Sir Gerard Noel arrived in a torpedo boat.

During the afternoon the band of the 2nd Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment, under Band-master McKelvey, rendered selections in their well-known pleasing manner.

The start of the races was delayed till near midday, but that did not interfere with the pleasures of the day. Results are appended.

TUB. SCULLS.

Open to those not competing in the Stewards' Challenge Cup.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| L. A. Musso, V.R.C., 11st 11lbs | 1 |
| L. Browne, V.R.C., 11st 11lbs | 2 |
| L. Duran, Canton R.C. 11st 1lb | 0 |

The Canton man failed to appear and the race between the other two was not very exciting. Both men took things easily over the half-mile course, Musso reaching the winning post with a length or two to spare. Time 4 mins. 9½ secs.

THE BROWN CHALLENGE CUP.

For light Six-Oared Gigs open to Royal Engineers, Royal Garrison Artillery, British Infantry Regiments, and Departments.

| | |
|--|---|
| Royal Engineers | 1 |
| 2nd Battalion Queen's Own Royal West Kent Rgmt | 2 |

The crews were: Royal Engineers—Bow, Sergt. F. Stokes; Sappers C. Spire, C. D. Fisher, P. Tanner, A. Barnes, 2nd Corp'l S. Murray (str.), Sapper E. Grimsey (cox.). R.W. Kent Regiment—Bow, Pte Rowlands, L. C. Petersen, L. C. Flinn, Pte Turner, Pte King, L. Corp'l Barnett, Bandsman Faulkner (cox.). The Engineers had the race pretty well all their own way from the start, and gradually increased their lead till they finished about 80 yards ahead. The course was a mile in length. Time 9 mins. 0½ sec.

JUNIOR FOURS "B."

For heavy clinker built boats. Open to those not competing for the Challenge Cup or Junior Fours "A." Limited to residents of Hongkong.

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Victoria R.C. | 1 |
| R. H. Yacht Club | 2 |

The crews were: V.R.C.—J. S. Alves, (bow), J. H. P. Hance, L. A. Musso, L. Browne (str.), R. W. Pearson (cox.). R.H.Y.C.—W. Stewart (bow), H. W. Lester, J. Hanron, H. Schoenemann (str.), G. A. Caldwell (cox.). This was the best race so far, there being a good display of rowing and a fairly equal contest. Victoria were unfortunate at the start but soon recovered, and after a spirited effort passed the winning mark three lengths ahead. Course, one mile, Time 8 mins. 17 secs.

MEN-OF-WAR GIGS AND WHALERS.

For service boats, under service conditions. Course, one mile.

Thirteen crews competed—one from H.M.S. *Dee*, *Hecla*, *Otter*, *Hart*, *Handy*, *Ettrick*, *Alacrity*, *Itchen*, *Tamar*, *Diadem*, and Kowloon depot, and two from H.M.S. *Hogue*. There was some difficulty in getting away, but once started the crews infused plenty of spirit into the race. Unfortunately, however, there were one or two fouls, which tended to confuse the issue of a rather exciting contest. The result, after deliberation, was as follows:—

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| H.M.S. <i>Ettrick's</i> crew | 1 |
| " <i>Hogue's</i> No. 1 crew | 2 |
| " <i>Hogue's</i> " 2 | 3 |
| " <i>Itchen's</i> crew | 4 |

CHALLENGE CUP FOR FOUR OARS.

Rowed in light clinker boats. Open to crews representative of any amateur rowing club. Distance 1½ miles.

| | |
|--------------|---|
| R. H. Y. C. | 1 |
| Canton R. C. | 2 |

The crews were: Canton—F. C. Herl (bow), 11st.; E. E. Andrus, 11st 7lb; C. Allers, 12st. 2lbs. W. Imhoof (str.) 13st 8lbs; A. W. Purnell (cox), 11st. R.H.Y.C.—F. A. Biden (bow) 10st 2lbs; A. B. Rouse 11st 12lbs; W. O. Kohler, 12st 2lbs; F. W. Warre (str), 12st; A. G. Caldwell, 8st 1lb. Local rivalry invested this event with considerable interest. Both crews were about equal, and as the boats kept almost

level the greater part of the way, the result was in doubt until the very end, when Hongkong were declared the winners. The course which had to be altered on account of the choppy sea was interrupted by sampans.

STEWARDS' CHALLENGE CUP.

For sculls. Rowed in best boats. Distance, 1 mile.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| W. Knutzel, Canton R. C. 10st 12lbs | 1 |
| H. W. Kennett, R.H.Y.C., 9st 6lbs | 2 |

An interesting race with both competitors equal till near the finish, when the Canton man drew ahead.

THE GOVERNOR'S CHALLENGE CUP

For four oars. Limited to residents of Hongkong. Each boat's crew to be drawn from a single unit which is defined as a regiment, a ship, a corps, the volunteers, a firm, or any other body of gentlemen working together at the same profession or calling. If any of the above units are not strong enough to provide a complete crew, then any combination of two similar units may be made. A club is not included in the definition of a unit.

Royal West Kent Regiment and Royal Engineers

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Engineers | 1 |
| Coldstream Guards | 2 |
| Hongkong Volunteer Corps | 3 |
| Messrs. Melchers and Blackhead | 0 |
| Eastern Extension Telegraph Co. | 0 |

This was the event of the day. Though the start was delayed, the five boats got away well. The West Kents and the Engineers early showed their superiority, while the Volunteers would perhaps have done better had they not got so far outside where the tide was rather strong. For some distance the West Kents led, but they were challenged by the Engineers who succeeded in passing the line first. The competing crews were:

Royal Engineers.—A. G. Ramsford Hannay (bow) 10st 8lbs; A. B. Ogle 11st 9lbs; G. L. Hall 10st 5lbs; C. Cooper (str.) 11st 2lbs; Major le Breton Simmons 9st 11lbs (cox).

Messrs. Melchers and Blackhead.—A. Schoenemann (bow) 11st 1lb; C. König; 13st 3lbs; A. Berlinger 12st 7lbs. W. O. Köhler (str.) 12st 2 lbs; G. A. Caldwell, 8st 1lb (cox).

Royal West Kent Rgmt and Coldstream Guards.—E. S. Ward (bow) 11st 4lbs; M. W. Graham 12st 4lb; C. W. Case Morris 11st 4lbs; W. Belgrave; (str.) 10st 8lbs; Capt. F. J. Joslin, 9st 7lbs (cox).

Eastern Extension Telegraph Co.—W. Peak (bow) 9st 9lbs; J. Hanron 13st 2lbs; P. C. Murray 11st 11lbs; C. H. Mackay 10st 5lbs; J. O. Hughes, 11st 2lbs (cox).

Hongkong Volunteer Corps.—J. H. Hance, (bow) 10st 8lbs; H. W. Lester 12st 8lbs; C. E. Hance 11st 10lbs; J. W. Witchell 12st 7lbs; H. W. Kennett 9st 6lbs (cox).

MEN-OF-WAR CUTTERS.

Service boats, service conditions. Distance 1 mile.

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| H.M.S. <i>Andromeda</i> No. 2 | 1 |
| " <i>Hogue</i> | 2 |
| " <i>Andromeda</i> No. 1 | 3 |
| " <i>Tamar</i> | 0 |

Undoubtedly a fine race, all the boats finishing in a cluster.

JUNIOR FOURS A.

Rowed in heavy clinker-built boats. Open to those not competing for the Challenge Cup or Junior Fours, B. Distance 1 mile.

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Canton Rowing Club | 1 |
| Royal H.K. Yacht Club | 2 |
| V. R. C. | 3 |

Another exciting race, the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club disputing all the way with Canton for first place, which the latter secured by a length.

OFFICERS' GIGS AND WHALERS.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| H.M.S. <i>Sutlej</i> | 1 |
| " <i>Hogue</i> | 2 |
| " <i>Andromeda</i> | 3 |

There was plenty of spirit in the contest and very little separated the competitors at the close.

LADIES' PRIZE.

For Pair Oars, clinker-built, with coxswain. Open to pairs representative of any Amateur Rowing Club. Distance 1 mile.

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Canton Rowing Club | 1 |
| V. R. C. | 2 |
| Royal H. K. Yacht Club | 3 |

This was rather a disappointing race. Canton were easily first, the others being a long way behind. There was mention of a protest for fouling at the start.

DRAGON RACE.

This typically Chinese contest proved a most picturesque and interesting event. Three boats competed, with crews of about 50 on each, and as they were paddled along the men were excited to greater efforts by the beating of tom toms and the gesticulation of one or two men standing erect who might be described as coxswains. There was a very exciting finish, all the boats being together.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

The prizes were distributed within the enclosure.

The Hon Mr. Gershom Stewart said Lady Noel had kindly consented to present the prizes. They had that day, he continued, tried an experiment and they waited for the public verdict as to whether it had been a success or not. One thing had been a success, and that was in respect of the attendance of ladies and gentlemen who had favoured them with their presence that day. They felt that as long as the ladies supported them they were all right. They owed a debt of gratitude to the Kowloon and Whampoa Dock Coy. for so kindly lending them their premises which were admirably situated for works of commerce and works of pleasure (applause). He had now to ask Lady Noel to hand the prizes to the fortunate competitors.

Lady Noel presented the cups to the winners and the accompanying trophies. The most interesting were the oars and a rudder for the crew which won the Governor's Cup.

Miss Alice Berkeley, who had collected for the Ladies' Cup, presented that prize to the successful crew, and was presented with a bouquet.

The Governor said it was his privilege to thank Lady Noel for so kindly distributing the prizes on that occasion. He thought the meeting that day had been a great success, largely due to the co-operation of the services—the naval and the military—with the civil element together with the competition of Canton, which they always welcomed whether they were successful or not. In conclusion he presented Lady Noel with a bouquet as a memento of the occasion. (Applause).

The Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart called for three cheers for the ladies, and these being accorded, the company separated, all apparently well pleased with the day's outing.

FIRE ON THE S.S. "SIBERIA."

On the 10th December a fire broke out in the fore hold of the S.S. *Siberia*, in which was stored hemp and jute. How it originated is unknown, but it burned fiercely until after 2 p.m. The brigade, under Chief Inspector Baker and Chief Engineer Lane, hastened to the vessel, where, with the assistance of the crew, they got the flames under. To accomplish this, however, the hold had to be flooded, and in this work the fire float did good service. The damage at present is not known.

DEPARTURE OF INTERNED RUSSIANS.

An unusual stir in the Russian camp at Kowloon early on the 30th November betrayed the fact that something out of the ordinary routine was about to happen. Preparations in fact were in progress for the departure of the men for their fatherland, after many months of internment. About 150 Russians have been encamped at Kowloon. Major Sexton, who was in charge of the camp, saw the warriors on board, and the Water Police returned the arms and ammunition which they held for them. The sailors, as they proceeded to the vessel which was to carry them home, enlivened the short march with music on various instruments. They appeared to be glad, at the thought of again seeing their native land, but the leave-taking was marked by many expressions of regret at leaving the hospitable shores of our Colony. The cruiser *Almas* weighed anchor about midday on Thursday, when the Russians took their last glimpse of the land on which they had spent so many pleasant days.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 18th November, 1905.—7th Crop.—It is estimated that there will be 4,000 bales of this crop available for export, against 2,000 bales for the year 1904. Both quality and colour are reported to be good. Long-reels.—Local values have experienced a marked decline owing to the rapid advance of exchange, which is still checking business. Transactions have been booked at irregular prices according to the financial situation of holders; the tendency for "Natives" is very weak. From sales made we quote: Frcs.—Wah Fong 9/11 from \$895 to \$877½; Kai Sun Cheong 10/12 at from \$870 to \$820; Hang Wo Cheong 10/12 at \$865; Kum Lun Tai 13/15 at \$830; Tung Wo Hing 13/15 at \$810; Wing Hing Lun 16/18 at \$785; Yu Ye Cheong 18/22 from \$740 to \$720; Yee Wo Cheong 18/22 at \$715; Best 3me. ordre 11/13, 13/15, 14/18 from \$725 to \$692½. Short-reels.—The American demand rules dull, and some reelers have stopped producing Shortreels in order to replace them by Longreels. Waste Silk.—The enquiry from the home markets has increased, and a fair number of transactions have been booked owing to the easier attitude of some holders in Canton. The prices in the interior are still much above the limits offered by foreign buyers. Stock of Silk in Canton: 500 bales.

Messrs. A. B. Burkill and Sons' Silk Circular, dated Shanghai, November, 25th 1905, states:—The home markets quote Gold Kiling at Fcs. 34 in Lyons and 11s. 10½d. in London. Raw Silk.—Since the date of our last Circular no business has taken place in Tsatlees; there has been a further advance in exchange of one penny. Yellow Silk.—Is easier in consequence of the advance in exchange. Steam Filatures.—Are neglected. Hand Filatures.—The prices asked by dealers are quite out of reach. Waste Silk.—Nothing doing.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 9th December.

Quotations are:—Allow'ce net to 1 catty.

| | | | | |
|----------------------|--------|----|---|------------|
| Malwa New | \$1030 | to | — | per picul. |
| Malwa Old | \$1060 | to | — | do. |
| Malwa Older | \$1110 | to | — | do. |
| Malwa V. Old | \$1180 | to | — | do. |
| Persian fine quality | \$1150 | to | — | do. |
| Persian extra fine | \$1200 | to | — | do. |
| Patna New | \$982½ | to | — | per chest. |
| Patna Old | \$945 | to | — | do. |
| Benares New | \$940 | to | — | do. |
| Benares Old | \$915 | to | — | do. |

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 30th November, 1905, states:—The promised demand, which the local dealers for some time past have maintained must spring up during the "eleventh moon," is not in evidence as yet, nor have clearances during the interval shown any indication of an improvement in that respect. Still there are slight symptoms that their predictions may be fulfilled in the near future, though perhaps not very clear as yet. There are rumours, however, that orders are already on the way from Szechuen for ten lacs worth of goods and yarn, and this is somewhat confirmed by the purchase—it may be speculative and in anticipation—of upwards of 4,000 bales of the latter during the interval. Sterling exchange too appears to have reached its zenith, and the slightly weaker quotations seem to be having a revivifying effect on the trade, for a high exchange has a more immediate influence on the market than a drop in cotton would have. The dealers are certainly becoming more in evidence and are probably finding out what they can buy from importers to make up their assortments; for there are very few who have not ample supplies already on hand, or indented for, and a fair proportion of the former paid for long since, which no doubt accounts for the very poor clearances importers are experiencing. The market is nominally easier, but it is just as hard to obtain advances against goods on storage as it was before; and unless some very heavy deliveries take place during the next six or seven weeks the stringency at China New Year time will be very severe. Forward buying is absolutely at a standstill, prices asked by manufacturers for staple makes being very excessive, but with the heavy orders they have still on hand they are in the position to quote almost prohibitive rates.—Thus very little is doing with either Manchester or New York, in fact with the latter market all that has been reported is the re-sale of some of the lighter makes originally settled for shipment here at a profit of about 10 per cent.

With the former an indent business on an absolutely retail scale is going on. The advance in the raw staple we were enabled to publish in our last has been well maintained.—The Liverpool quotation for Mid-American on the 27th inst. was telegraphed at 6.28d., but fell next day to 6.19d., while Egyptian, which was quoted 8½d. dropped to 8½d. So far no indication of the cause of the upward movement has been advised. The last fortnightly telegram of the export of plain cottons from Lancashire was 18,000,000 yards. An extra steamer was despatched to Newchwang on the 26th instant and took 1,250 bales cotton goods, mostly American. Further re-sales of some 2,000 bales of these goods have been made for the same market, which is reported strong. Tientsin remains dull and the last steamer will leave here on the 14th prox. most likely, although the more northerly Port is not expected to close now for another week. Shipments to the River Ports are steadily increasing. It is interesting to notice from Messrs. W. H. Nott & Company's monthly tables for the nine months ending the 30th September, that the exports of British manufactures, etc., to Shanghai were almost double that of any previous year, and about equal to Bombay. Piece Goods.—There are still no sales to be reported from first hands privately. The little dispute that had arisen over the Yuen Fong auctions and caused their suspension for two consecutive weeks, has been amicably arranged, and the sale to-day went off with considerable eclat to the sellers. In comparing the prices realised with those paid at the last sales, on 9th instant, it must be remembered that exchange has advanced nearly 4 per cent. since that date, on which basis very few items show a decline. At the Ewo auction prices were mostly upwards, and from these two sales we should certainly infer that a better feeling has set in for cotton goods, but woollens do not look so satisfactory. Cotton Yarn.—Indian. There has been more activity in the market during the interval that for weeks past, and although prices paid are so irregular it is impossible to indicate by just so much what the advance is, there is undoubtedly a distinct appreciation in values. For No. 10s there has been a rather more healthy competition between the River markets and Northern buyers, with the result that last week's prices have been well sustained, and in some cases actually show an advance. Other counts have not come out at all well, prices being very in and out. All the No. 20s. have been taken for the Szechuen market, and some very cheap purchases are recorded, quite upsetting the usual sequence of quotations. The sales amount to 7,010 bales in all.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 1st December.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

| COTTON YARN— | | per bale |
|-----------------------|-----|----------------------|
| Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20 | ... | \$ 90.00 to \$128.00 |
| English—Nos. 16 to 24 | ... | 140.00 to 160.00 |
| " 22 to 24 | ... | 160.00 to 165.00 |
| " 28 to 32 | ... | 167.50 to 175.00 |
| " 38 to 42 | ... | 180.00 to 190.00 |

Reported sales 5,000 bales.

| COTTON PIECE GOODS— | | per piece |
|---------------------------------|-----|--------------|
| Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. | ... | 2.20 to 2.25 |
| 7 lbs. | ... | 2.30 to 2.40 |
| 8.4 lbs. | ... | 3.00 to 4.00 |
| 9 to 10 lbs. | ... | 4.10 to 5.30 |
| White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. | ... | 2.80 to 3.00 |
| 58 to 60 " | ... | 3.10 to 3.60 |
| 64 to 66 " | ... | 3.80 to 5.40 |
| Fine | ... | 6.10 to 8.00 |
| Book-folds | ... | 5.30 to 8.10 |
| Victoria Lawns—12 yards | ... | 0.80 to 1.00 |
| T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. | ... | 2.20 to 2.30 |
| 7lbs. (32 ") | ... | 2.70 to 3.00 |
| 6lbs. (32 "), Mexs. | ... | 2.25 to 2.70 |
| 7lbs. (32 ") | ... | 2.90 to 3.20 |
| 8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) | ... | 3.25 to 3.80 |
| Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ " | ... | 5.10 to 8.00 |
| to 14 lbs. " | ... | |

FANCY COTTONS—

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs. | 1.75 to 3.70 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|

| per yard | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Brocades—Dyed | 0.13½ to 0.15 |
| Chintzes—Assorted | 0.09 to 0.30 |
| Velvets—Black, 22 in. | 0.23 to 0.45 |
| Velveteens—18 in. | 0.21 to 0.25 |

| per dozen | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk | 0.52 to 1.00 |

WOOLLENS—

| per yard | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops | 0.63 to 2.00 |
| German | — |
| Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths | 1.20 to 3.00 |

| per piece | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs. | 7.75 to 8.90 |
| Assorted | 7.90 to 9.05 |
| Camlets—Assorted | 20.00 to 31.00 |
| Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches | 18.00 to 21.00 |
| Assorted | — |
| Orleans—Plain, 31 in. | — |

| per lb. | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Blankets—5 to 12 lbs. | 0.60 to 1.50 |

METALS—

| per picul. | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Iron—Nail Rod | 4.10 to — |
| Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.) | 4.10 to — |
| Swedish Bar | 4.10 to — |
| Small Round Rod | 4.40 to — |
| Hoop ½ to 1½ in. | 6.40 to — |
| Wire, 16/25 oz. | 9.50 to — |
| Wire Rope, Old | 3.00 to — |
| Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop | 9.40 to — |
| Australian | 9.40 to — |
| Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz. | 40.50 to — |
| Vivian's 14/20 oz. | 40.50 to — |
| Elliot's 14/20 oz. | 40.50 to — |
| Composition Nails | 61.00 to — |
| Japan Copper, Slabs | 38.50 to — |
| Tin | 87.00 to — |

| per box | |
|------------|-----------|
| Tin-Plates | 6.40 to — |

| per cwt. case | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Steel 1 to 3 | 5.80 to — |

| per picul | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Quicksilver | 118.00 to — |

| per box | |
|--------------|-----------|
| Window Glass | 5.50 to — |

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated Shanghai, 27th November, 1905, states:—The further rise in exchange which has taken place since our last report was issued has brought business almost to a standstill. Dealers are very slow in realising that Tael prices for several articles have to be greatly reduced if they wish to keep pace with other competing markets. Gallnuts.—The market for this article continues dull and shows no sign of improvement. Buyers' ideas are far below what dealers would accept at present. Cowhides.—Several contracts have been made in the interval. First cost prices are unchanged in spite of the higher exchange and dealers seem not to be inclined to make any concessions whatever. Tobacco.—Sample bales of best chop cargo have come to hand. The quality, however, leaves much to be desired and will hardly be good enough for the requirement of consumers at home. Feathers.—Are a very dull market and a very small business has been done in the meantime. Cotton.—The market has shown a very weakish appearance all through last week and a moderate business has been done with Europe. Tallow.—Remains firm and there is next to nothing doing. Strawbraid.—Stocks are accumulating, business not being feasible on account of high first cost prices and exchange. Goat-skin Rugs.—Are in strong demand and a good business is to be recorded. Wool.—There are large orders in the market from America and prices are consequently very firm.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 11th November, 1905.

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Apricot | \$27 to — |
| Borax | \$15 " \$17 |
| Cassia | \$14 " \$19 |
| Cloves | \$20 " \$34 |
| Camphor | \$142 " — |
| Cow Bezoar | \$115 " \$140 |
| Fennel Seed | \$6 " — |
| Galangal | \$5½ " — |
| Grapes | \$9½ " — |
| Kismis | \$17 " \$19 |
| Glue | \$25 " \$27 |
| Olibanum | \$10 " \$15 |
| Oil Sandalwood | \$300 " \$375 |
| " Rosa | \$100 " \$160 |
| " Cassia | \$150 " — |
| Raisins | \$19 " \$21 |
| Senna Leaves | \$3 " \$6 |
| Sandalwood | \$25 " \$30 |
| Saltpetre | \$124 " — |

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer Bengal, sailed on 2nd December. For Hamburg:—10 cases cigars. For Copenhagen:—11 cases cigars. For Manchester:—350 bales waste silk. For St. Etienne:—30 bales raw silk. For St. Chamond:—12 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—229 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—250 bales waste silk, 229 bales raw silk (optional), 5 cases feathers. For London:—10 bales canes, 5 packages private effects, 4 cases cigars, 5 cases silks, 4 packages sundries, 5 cases lacquerware, 334 bales waste silk, 10 rolls matting, 1 case feathers, 75 bales raw silk, 110 packages tea. For Gibraltar:—1 case silks. For Malta:—1 case silks.

HANKOW, Nov. 20th, 1905.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

| | Per picul. |
|--|------------|
| Cowhides, Best Selected... | Tls. 36.50 |
| Do. Seconds | 32.25 |
| Buffalo hides, Best Selected .. | 17.50 |
| Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white color .. | 55.00 |
| Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each .. | 8.00 |
| White China Grass, Wuchang and or Poochi..... | 11.50 |
| White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu .. | 10.50 |
| Green China Grass, Szechuen .. | 12.00 |
| Jute | 4.20 |
| White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow .. | 9.00 |
| White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchew and/or Macheng .. | 8.70 |
| White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu .. | 8.00 |
| Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu .. | 8.50 |
| Animal Tallow .. | 10.00 |
| Gallnuts, usual shape .. | 16.80 |
| Do. Plum do. | 18.50 |
| Tobacco, Tingchow .. | 9.00 |
| Do. Wongkong .. | 10.00 |
| Black Bristles .. (nom.) | |
| Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck .. | (") |
| " " " Wild Duck .. | (") |
| Turmeric .. | (") |
| Sesamum Seed .. | 3.65 |
| Sesamum Seed Oil .. (nom.) | |
| Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil .. | (") |
| Wood Oil .. | 9.70 |
| Tea Oil .. | 10.00 |

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 8th December, 1905.—Although sterling exchange has ruled somewhat lower during the week under review (it closes $\frac{1}{2}$ down since the date of our last) it has had no appreciable effect on rates, with the exception of Banks, the weakness in which has been arrested. Generally speaking, however, the market shows no improvement and business continues as dull as ever.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai found further sellers in the early part of the week at \$875 and a few shares changed hands at that rate. Later, however, a small demand at \$877 $\frac{1}{2}$ meeting with no response, the market closes fairly steady at \$880, but with a few shares on offer at that rate. Nationals unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have changed hands at the reduced rate of \$740, the market closing quiet at that rate. China Traders have been placed at \$90 and \$91, closing with a few small parcels offering at the latter rate. Cantons remain steady at \$330, but without business. North Chinas have declined in Shanghai to Tls. 92. Yangtszes remain unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have changed hands at \$330 and Chinas remain at \$87 without finding buyers.

SHIPPING.—All stocks under this heading are neglected, and we have only to report small sales of Hongkong, Canton and Macao at \$25.

REFINERIES.—A sale of China Sugars is reported at \$212, the market closing quiet at that rate. Luzons, after further small sales at \$25, close in demand at that rate, but with sellers at \$26.

MINING.—No change or business to report. Raubs crushed 690 tons from 5,089 tons of ore crushed in the last four weeks.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have further receded with sales at \$164, closing with sellers at \$164 and buyers at \$163. Kowloon Wharves continue in demand, and the rate has risen to \$108 with but very few small sales. Farnhams are quoted in Shanghai at Tls. 137.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands remain neglected and with a small business at \$125. Kowloon Lands are still in a small request at \$40, but none seem available. Hotels have found buyers at the improved rate of \$150, and close steady at that rate. Humphreys have declined further to \$12 with sales.

COTTONS.—Ewos have receded to Tls. 60 in Shanghai. No other changes to report under this heading.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents have been placed at \$91. Green Islands at \$28, \$28 $\frac{1}{2}$ and \$28 $\frac{3}{4}$, and Watsons at \$12, the last closing with buyers and the two previous stocks with sellers at quotations. China Light and Powers, Laundries and Powells all have sellers at quotations without any business to report.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

| COMPANY. | PAID UP. | QUOTATION. |
|-----------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Alhambra | \$200 | \$100, buyers |
| Banks— | | |
| Hongkong & Shanghai | \$125 | \$880, sales & sel. |
| National B. of China | £5 | London, £93 |
| Bell's Asbestos E. A. | 12s. 6d. | \$88, buyers |
| China-Borneo Co. | \$12 | \$10, sellers |
| China Light & P. Co. | \$10 | \$91, sellers |
| China Provident | \$10 | \$91, sales |
| Cotton Mills— | | |
| Ewo | Tls. 50 | Tls. 60 |
| Hongkong | \$10 | \$14 |
| International | Tls. 75 | Tls. 44 |
| Laou Kung Mow | Tls. 100 | Tls. 60 |
| Soychee | Tls. 500 | Tls. 250 |
| Dairy Farm | \$6 | \$16, sellers |
| Docks & Wharves— | | |
| Farnham, B. & Co. | Tls. 100 | Tls. 137 |
| H. & K. Wharf & G. | \$50 | \$108, buyers |
| H. & W. Dock | \$50 | \$163, buyers |
| New Amoy Dock | \$61 | \$17 |
| Shai & H. Wharf | Tls. 100 | Tls. 207 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Fenwick & Co., Geo. | \$25 | \$26, sellers |
| G. Island Cement | \$10 | \$24 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Hongkong & C. Gas | £10 | \$28 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers |
| Hongkong Electric | \$10 | \$175, buyers |
| Do. New | \$10 | \$15, buyers |
| H. H. L. Tramways | \$100 | \$14 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Hongkong Hotel Co. | \$50 | \$215 |
| Hongkong Ice Co. | \$25 | \$150, sales |
| Hongkong Rope Co. | \$50 | \$235 |
| H'kong S. Waterboat | \$10 | \$152 |
| Insurances— | | |
| Canton | \$50 | \$340, sellers |
| China Fire | \$20 | \$87 |
| China Traders | \$25 | \$91, sellers |
| Hongkong Fire | \$50 | \$330, sellers |
| North China | £5 | Tls. 92 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers |
| Union | \$100 | \$740 |
| Yangtsze | \$60 | \$170 |
| Land and Buildings— | | |
| H'kong Land Invest. | \$100 | \$125, sales & sel. |
| Humphreys' Estate | \$10 | \$12, sales |
| Kowloon Land & B. | \$30 | \$40, sales & buy. |
| Shanghai Land | Tls. 50 | Tls. 122 |
| West Point Building | \$50 | \$55, sellers |
| Mining— | | |
| Charbonnages | Fcs. 250 | \$490 |
| Raubs | 18 10 | \$3 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Philippine Co. | \$10 | \$5 |
| Refineries— | | |
| China Sugar | \$100 | \$215, sellers |
| Luzon Sugar | \$100 | \$26, sellers |
| Steamship Companies | | |
| China and Manila | \$25 | \$20, sellers |
| Douglas Steamship | \$50 | \$35, buyers |
| H. Canton & M. | \$15 | \$25, sales |
| Indo-China S.N. Co. | £10 | \$94, sellers |
| Shell Transport Co. | £1 | 25s. |
| Do. Preference | £10 | £8. 10s. |
| Star Ferry | \$10 | \$32, buyers |
| Do. New | \$5 | \$23, sellers |
| Shanghai & H. Dyeing | \$50 | \$50 |
| South China M. Post. | \$25 | \$20, sellers |
| Steam Laundry Co. | \$5 | \$71, sellers |
| Do. | \$5 | \$61, sellers |
| Stores & Dispensaries | | |
| Campbell, M. & Co. | \$10 | \$36 |
| Powell & Co., Wm. | \$10 | \$11, sellers |
| Watkins | \$10 | \$64, sellers |
| Watson & Co., A. S. | \$10 | \$12, sales & buy. |
| United Asbestos | \$4 | \$9 |
| Do. Founders | \$10 | \$160 |

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending the 30th Nov., 1905, states:—Business during the past week has remained very quiet, and with the exception of a drop in Indo-Chinas and a rise in Ewo Shares there is hardly any change of rates to report. Exchange remains about the same, the T.T. rate on London to-day being 2/11. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.—There is no business reported, but in the South they have further depreciated, and are obtainable at \$390. The London quotation is £93.10. Marine and Fire Insurance.—North Chinas were placed in the early part of the week at Tls. 95, but subsequently declined to Tls. 90 each. China Traders have declined to \$88, at which rate business has been done. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. At the commencement of the week shares changed hands at Tls. 68 $\frac{1}{2}$ for December and Tls. 72 for March. On the 27th, however, Tls. 70 for March was the best rate obtainable, and on the 29th cash shares were dealt in at Tls. 66. Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company. A quotation has been made locally

of \$25 ex. 71. Shanghai Tugs. Ordinary shares have changed hands at Tls. 51 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Pref. shares at Tls. 47. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyds. Since our last these have not fallen in price at all, the December rate being Tls. 138, and the March rate Tls. 143. Very little business has been done and the market remains quiet. Hongkong Docks have declined and can be obtained at \$168. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co. A fair business has been done in this stock at Tls. 195 cash and 196 for December, Tls. 204, 205, 206 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 207 for March, remaining very steady at the close. Sugar.—There is no business reported. Mining.—Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. have been placed in small lots at Tls. 840. Wei-haiwei Golds have sellers at \$12. Land.—Shanghai Lands remain very steady at Tls. 122. Industrial.—Cottons. Ewos. In anticipation of a good report some strong buyers came into the market since our last, and shares have been placed at Tls. 58 for cash and Tls. 59 for December. Subsequent buying has sent the price up steadily to Tls. 62 for cash, Tls. 63 for December, and Tls. 65 for March, but at these rates at closing sellers rule the market. Internationals. There are sellers at Tls. 44. Laou Kung Mows have been placed at Tls. 59. China Flours. A single transaction is reported at Tls. 85 for March. Langkats. At the commencement of the week Tls. 217 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 220 was the rate for December while Tls. 232 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 230 was paid for March. On the 24th shares declined to Tls. 215 for cash, and Tls. 217 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 220 with Tls. 227 $\frac{1}{2}$ reported for March. The following day a further decline of Tls. 250 took place and no change has been reported. Our rates at closing are Tls. 212 $\frac{1}{2}$ cash, Tls. 212 $\frac{1}{2}$ December and Tls. 225 for March. Stores and Hotels. There are sellers of Central Stores at quotations. Weeks and Co. have changed hands at \$20. Astor House and Co. Ltd. Shares have been placed at \$27. Miscellaneous.—Horse Bazaars have sellers at Tls. 70. Telephones have been placed at Tls. 56 and 55. Loans and Debentures.—Municipal 5 per cent. have been taken off the market at 14 per cent. discount. A small lot of Astor House Debentures have been placed at Tls. 104.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 11th December.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ON LONDON.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight | 2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| ON LONDON.— | |
| Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight | 2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Credits, at 4 months' sight | 2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight | 2/1 |
| ON PARIS.— | |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 255 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Credits 4 months' sight | 259 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| ON GERMANY.— | |
| On demand | 207 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| ON NEW YORK.— | |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 49 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Credits, 60 days' sight | 50 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| ON BOMBAY.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 151 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Bank, on demand | 151 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| ON CALCUTTA.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 151 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Bank, on demand | 151 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| ON SHANGHAI.— | |
| Bank, at sight | 71 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Private, 30 days' sight | 72 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| ON YOKOHAMA.— | |
| On demand | 99 |
| ON MANILA.— | |
| On demand | 89 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| ON SINGAPORE.— | |
| On demand | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. pm |
| ON BATAVIA.— | |
| On demand | 122 |
| ON HAIPHONG.—On demand | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. pm. |
| ON SAIGON.—On demand | 1 p.c. pm. |
| ON BANGKOK.—On demand | 60 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| SEVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate | \$9.80 |
| GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael | \$52.40 |
| BAR SILVER, per oz. | 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 46/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 41/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland):—Tea G. \$11 cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai.—Tea and General Cargo Tels 1:80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

December—

ARRIVALS.

- 8, Daiji Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 8, Hongmoh, British str., from Singapore.
- 6, Iris, American str., from Manila.
- 6, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
- 6, Kampot, French str., from K'chauwan.
- 7, Capri, Italian str., from Bombay.
- 7, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
- 7, Norden, Norwegian str., from Moji.
- 7, Windsor, British str., from Sourabaya.
- 8, Bogatyr, Russian cruiser, from Nagasaki.
- 8, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 8, Fausang, British str., from Canton.
- 8, Fooching, British str., from Pakalongan.
- 8, Gledturret, British str., from London.
- 8, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 8, Huichow, British str., from Swausea.
- 8, Idomenens, British str., from Liverpool.
- 8, Jason, British str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Laisang, British str., Calcutta.
- 8, Otterspool, British str., from Moji.
- 8, Rajah, German str., from Bangkok.
- 8, Taming, British str., from Maaila.
- 8, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.
- 9, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 9, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Ghazee, British str., from Amoy.
- 9, Gromobry, Russian cr., from Nagasaki.
- 9, Kibkiang, British str., from Weihaiwei.
- 9, Montrose, British str., from Singapore.
- 9, Paklat, German str., from Bangkok.
- 9, Pronto, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
- 9, Russia, Russian cruiser, from the North.
- 9, Sutlej, British cruiser, from Mrs Bay.
- 10, Brand, Norwegian str., from Chiuksiang.
- 10, Foochow, British str., from Canton.
- 10, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
- 10, Kwangse, British str., from Wuhu.
- 10, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Promise, Norwegian str., from Anpiug.
- 10, Victoria, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 10, Wosang, British str., from Canton.

December—

DEPARTURES.

- 6, Deucalion, British str., for Singapore.
- 6, Germania, German str., for Port Valut.
- 6, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
- 6, Johanne, German str., for Haiphong.
- 6, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
- 6, Prinz Eitel Friedrich, Ger. str., for S'hai.
- 6, Prinz Regent Luitpold, Ger. str., for Europe.
- 6, Wosang, British str., for Canton.
- 6, Yochow, British str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Yuensang, British str., for Amoy.
- 7, America Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Australian, British str., for Moji.
- 7, Chunsang, British str., for Swatow.
- 7, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 7, Kwangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Otta, British str., for Kobe.
- 7, Progress, German str., for Canton.
- 7, Shantung, British str., for Samarang.
- 7, Undine, Norwegian str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Victoria, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 7, Wingsang, British str., for Chinkiang.
- 7, Zweena, British str., for Samarang.
- 8, Amigo, German str., for Haiphong.
- 8, Changsha, British str., for Kobe.
- 8, Clara Jebson, German str., for Canton.
- 8, Hongmoh, British str., for Amoy.
- 8, Hue, French str., for Kwangchauwan.
- 8, Khalif, British str., for Calcutta.
- 8, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 8, Otta, British str., for Kobe.
- 8, Daiji Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 8, Amigo, German str., for Haiphong.
- 9, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Hongmoh, British str., for Amoy.
- 8, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
- 9, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
- 10, Courtfield, British str., for Bombay.
- 10, Jason, British str., for London.
- 10, Huichow, British str., for Nagasaki.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Chusan*, for Hongkong, from London, &c., Mrs. Stedman, and governess; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Ough, Messrs. J. Moffatt, A. F. Wannack, L. Evans, Emilano Kerr, A. S. Louize; from Brindisi, Dr. Stedman, Mr. F. T. Colby; from Singapore, Lieut. Chandler, Rev. M. A. Silva, Rev. S. A. Silva, Messrs.

Heath, T. M. Gripetus, Mendes; for Shanghai, from London, Mrs. Orchardson, Mrs. R. Barnett, Miss M. Weir, Miss L. V. Brown, Rev. J. Kettlewell, Mr. R. C. McDougall; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. G. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Lemon, Miss Paddock, Messrs. R. Pullen, J. Lange; from Singapore, Mr. R. S. Freeman and servant.

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Per *Prinz Eitel Friedrich*, from Bremen, &c., Mr. and Mrs. F. H. L. Haesloop, Miss Smith, Miss Marles Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Grist and children, Mr. and Mrs. H. Jessen and children, Mr. and Mrs. A. Denison and children, Mr. E. Sprungli, Mr. and Mrs. A. Becker, Mr. and Mrs. J. Scott Harston, Mr. and Mrs. Playfair, Mrs. Sprungli, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Keller Sturcke, Dr. Marz, Miss Siebs, Mr. S. Siegert Bishop Dr. J. P. de Azevedo e Castro, Rev. A. Moraes Sarmiento, Misses H. Fyzicki and E. Bohme, Messrs. H. and E. Nanpei, A. Hedingsfeld, W. Davidson, E. Chalmers, G. L. Hughes, W. H. Gill, W. Krater, G. Faulbaum, T. Kojima, F. Cullen, R. M. Torrence, J. H. Tomseth, Misses J. Harrison, Capt. and Mrs. Milroy, Mr. and Mrs. C. May, Miss Witchell, Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Friedrich, Miss Wollermann, Capt. and Mrs. Schaaake, Misses Burton, Hind, Thomas, E. Taylor and C. Cree, Mrs. Oshizu, Mrs. Morgan and children, Mrs. Temebom, Miss S. Kraser, Mrs. V. Simon and children, Mrs. Grand, Messrs. Okoda and Fusedairiki; for Shanghai and Japan, Mr. and Mrs. Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. White Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. P. Moller, Mrs. R. A. Rickard, Mrs. E. Parlett, Mrs. Whittall, Messrs. A. Moor Radford, A. H. S. Aldom, M. A. Clarke, Ito, R. Maogregor, Dr. M. Bethke, Dr. and Mrs. W. J. Milles and child, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Mo Ewen, Mrs. E. Pape, Mr. and Mrs. E. Martiny, Mr. and Mrs. H. Kessler, Miss von Groth, Count Hiroasawa, Mrs. Hutchison, Lady and Miss Dudgeon, Mr. and Mrs. R. Sulzer and children, Dr. R. Schachner, Mrs. and Miss de Luca Kennedy, Mrs. Musso, Mr. and Mrs. Applegate, Lady and Miss Lovett Souter, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Hooy, Messrs. F. Schoene, von Harlem, E. Kroneck, M. Wikai, R. Griebel, H. Collbran, T. Osawa, S. Tashima, E. Schulze, Capt. Matsushita, Miss S. Borschel, Miss J. Cellerich, Dr. and Mrs. Isaki, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Hardy, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Cheyne, Capt. Wagle, Messrs. E. Thiele, J. H. W. Charley, J. O'Toole, P. Lewis, Miss Gulbrandson, Miss Casperson, Rev. and Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. F. A. Hicks, Miss Murray, Miss E. M. Read, Miss Black, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Robertson and child, Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Smith, Mrs. Hiruta, Mr. and Mrs. Dyer, Mrs. G. Stott, Miss Lauro, Mrs. and Miss Johnston, Mrs. H. Otei, Mr. W. R. Parkin, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Raddatz, Mrs. Tomisan, Messrs. Forbes, Mackay, G. Tyler, A. Brombla, F. Waterson, J. Esdale, A. E. Bray, N. W. Masterson, J. Donovan, A. J. Ferguson, W. Grundy, S. G. Reading, H. T. Paul, J. C. Flemons, C. S. Symons, R. Walter, Ch. Ley, T. Kumasai, S. Gerngross, J. Liesecke,

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Per *Prinz Regent Luitpold*, from Hongkong, for Hamburg, Dr. Stabsarzt Behmer, Miss Benham, Dr. R. Biech, Mr. G. Blumer, Miss E. Bourgnignou, Dr. von Borch, Mr. Bour macheff, Lieut. Bull, Mr. and Mrs. Campbell and child, Mr. and Mrs. Chardwick, Mr. Clark, Dr. Walter Clark, Miss Cole, Messrs. Bischof O'Connell, Creaven and Davydof, Dr. Delius, Mr. and Mrs. Derrick, Mr. W. B. Dicks, Rev. G. R. Dye, Mr. and Mrs. L. Emery and children, Dr. and Mrs. Freimann, Prince Gartschakoff, Lieut. Giebler, Baron von Gleichenstein Mr. Harck, Miss Harding, Miss Hall, Messrs. de Gaiffier d'Hestroy, Mr. and Mrs. C. Henschel and child, Mr. and Mrs. Hauptmann Hoffmann, Mr. and Mrs. Huber, Mr. T. Ito, Mr. and Mrs. C. Kaufmann and children, Messrs. G. Kawahara and N. Kook, Dr. and Mrs. Koppeschaur, Mr. Leonchukoff, Capt. Lodrengel, Messrs. Healthcote Long, Manewski, Matsushita, C. H. Meares and Modzalevsey, Lieut. Moore, Capt. von Meerscheidt-Hullessen, Mrs. G. D. Munso, Mr. and Mrs. J. Newell, Mrs. C. Norie, Messrs. Obnersky, Olsen, C. Pasche, Gustav Pfordte, Miss Reid, Messrs. C. Remy, W. P. Rutherford, H. Saiki and Sasa, Mr. and Mrs. C. Schell and children, Mr. Stabsarzt, Dr. Schmidt, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer, Messrs. Terletsky, Ulandovski and Barvon von Ungelter, Capt. Wagner, Mr. and Mrs. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Wheelock, Dr. Wirtz, Mr. Wyraykowski.

Per *America Maru*, from Hongkong, for San Francisco and beyond, Mrs. M. O'Brien, Messrs. H. A. Macintyre, H. L. Spencer and wife, and T. E. Hartley; for China and Japan, Com. H. G. Leopold and wife, Paymaster J. R. Hornberger and wife, Messrs. D. Takita, J. Sheridan and L. E. P. Jones, Mrs. Navarre, Messrs. E. L. Sleeth, J. C. Nicholas and E. Muelle, Mrs. M. A. Jewett, Mr. J. Bruine and servant.

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